

Wednesday, January 3, 2018 – 9:37 am

No significant forecast changes for Isle of Wight since yesterday's update. Based on this morning's National Weather Service (NWS) forecast, it is likely that IOW could see 4-6" of snow starting Wednesday afternoon through Thursday morning. Chances for 8" or more in some areas has increased slightly since yesterday's forecast and is now about 25% chance. Travel is expected to become hazardous Wednesday night into Thursday morning with temperatures mainly in the 20s. Gusty winds on Thursday may cause blowing snow and reduced visibility in areas that receive the most snow. Wind chills Thursday and Friday night will likely be below zero.

Isle of Wight is under a Winter Storm Warning from 7pm today through 1pm Thursday.

There is a chance we could see snow begin by around 3pm. Snow is likely by 7pm and almost 100% chance by 11pm. Snow chances gradually decrease beginning early Thursday morning and it's likely most of the snow will be out of the area by late morning Thursday and gone by noon. This storm is forecast to be primarily an all snow event. No significant icing is expected.

While the center of the low-pressure system bringing snow to the area is expected to remain off the VA coast, it is expected to intensify as it moves northward Thursday afternoon. We will likely see winds increase as the storm intensifies. The NWS has increased the forecast winds slightly. We'll likely see winds in the 12-20mph range Weds. night/Thurs. morning into the low-20s most of the day on Thursday (gust into the mid-30s). Winds are forecast to begin tapering off gradually Thursday evening, but will remain in the double digits through Friday afternoon. While widespread power outages are not expected, the increased winds on the backside of the system may cause increased power outages Thurs./Friday.

In addition to stronger winds, the NWS is forecasting temperatures to potentially be colder than the last few days have been on Thursday/Friday. High temperatures will likely be in the teens and wind chills could be below from around 11pm Thursday until mid-morning Friday – possibly as low as -6 degrees Thursday night. Wind chills are forecast to hover or drop below zero again from around midnight Friday through early Saturday morning. It will likely be Sunday afternoon before we see temperatures approaching freezing (32 degrees) again.

Of note this morning, the NWS has issued a Blizzard Warning for Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach from 7pm this evening to 1pm Thursday. A Blizzard Warning means severe winter weather conditions are expected or occurring. Falling and blowing snow with strong winds and poor visibilities are likely. This will lead to whiteout conditions, making travel extremely dangerous. Do not travel. If you must travel, have a winter survival kit with you.