



Weather Briefing

Potentially Historic Blizzard of January 26-27, 2015



National Weather Service



<http://www.weather.gov/nyc>



Prepared 1/26/15 5:30 am



The Forecast

- No Major Changes with the Latest Forecast
- Explosive Storm System will develop south of Long Island this afternoon and slowly drift north to near Cape Cod, MA by late Tuesday Night
- Tight Pressure gradient between high pressure to the north and powerful Nor'easter will create damaging winds and blizzard conditions from Late Monday into Tuesday



Powerful Nor-Easter/Blizzard Mon night – Tue night



- **BLIZZARD DEFINITION**

A severe snowstorm that is characterized by sustained winds or frequent gusts of at least 35 mph...visibility dropping to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or less in falling or blowing snow...and lasting for a prolonged period of time – typically three hours or more.



Powerful Nor-Easter/Blizzard

Mon night – Tue night

Hazards and Impacts



- **Heavy Snow** – Amounts 18 to 24 inches with locally higher amounts.
 - Snowfall rates 2-4” per hour in intense bands !
 - Drifts will exceed 3+ feet !
- **Blizzard Conditions and Strong Winds** - Northeast 25-40 mph gusts to 45 to 55 MPH; Gusts to near hurricane force possible over eastern LI
 - Impassible Roads
 - Extremely dangerous Travel
 - Downed trees and power lines
 - Potentially Life Threatening



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Hazards and Impacts



- **Coastal Impacts –**
 - Minor to Moderate Coastal Flooding possible for the shore line of Long Island Sound, the Bays of Long Island Early Tuesday morning.
 - 1-4 AM Ocean and South Shore Bays
 - 3-7 AM Long Island Sound
 - Surge generally 1 ½ to 3 ft, highest western Sound



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Hazards and Impacts



- **Coastal Impacts –**
 - High Surf and Beach erosion:
 - 3 to 5 foot waves North Shore of Long Island.
 - 7 to 12 foot waves Atlantic Facing Beaches
 - Possible damage to exposed water front structures.
 - Any moderate coastal flooding will cause flooding of vulnerable shore roads.



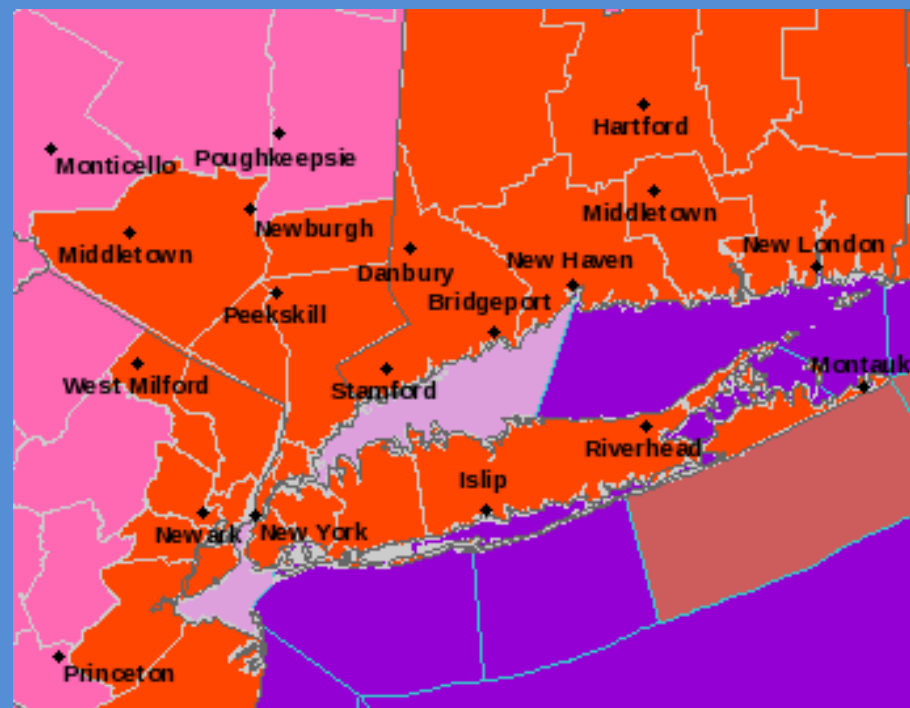
Latest NWS Warnings and Advisories



- **Blizzard Warning !** (This afternoon – Tuesday)
 - 18-24” on average - locally higher.

- **Coastal Flood Watch**
(1-7 AM Tuesday)

- Long Island Sound.
- Ocean/Bays.
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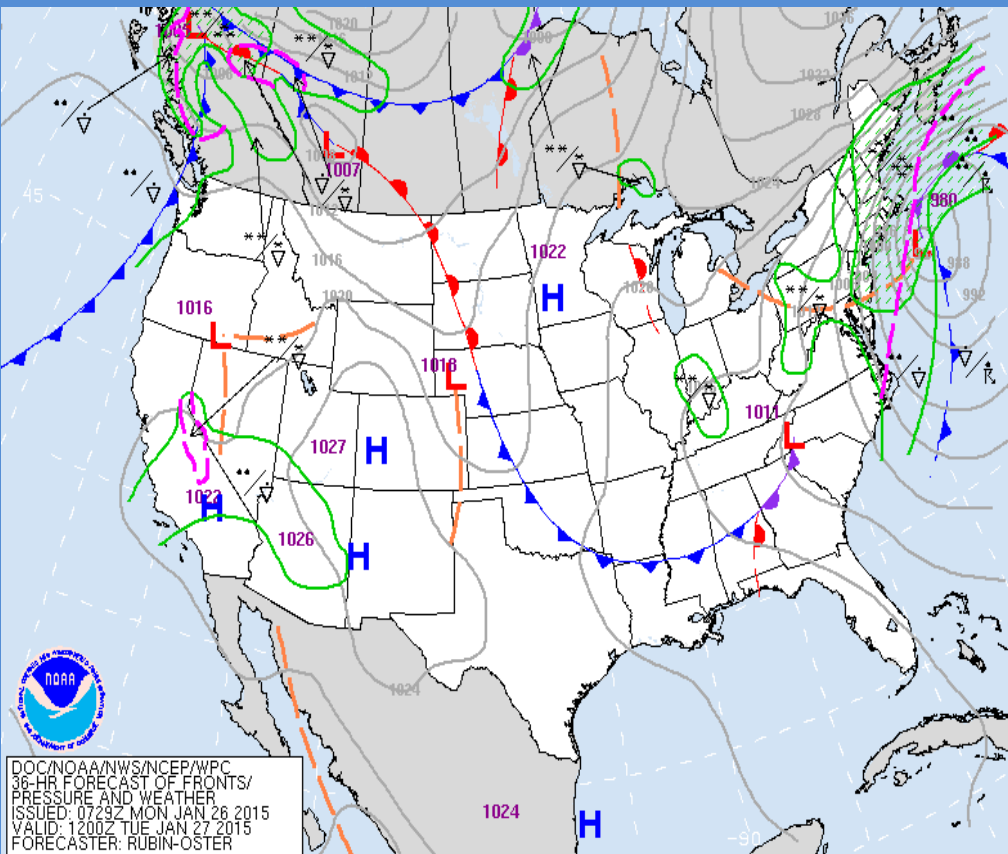


The Forecast



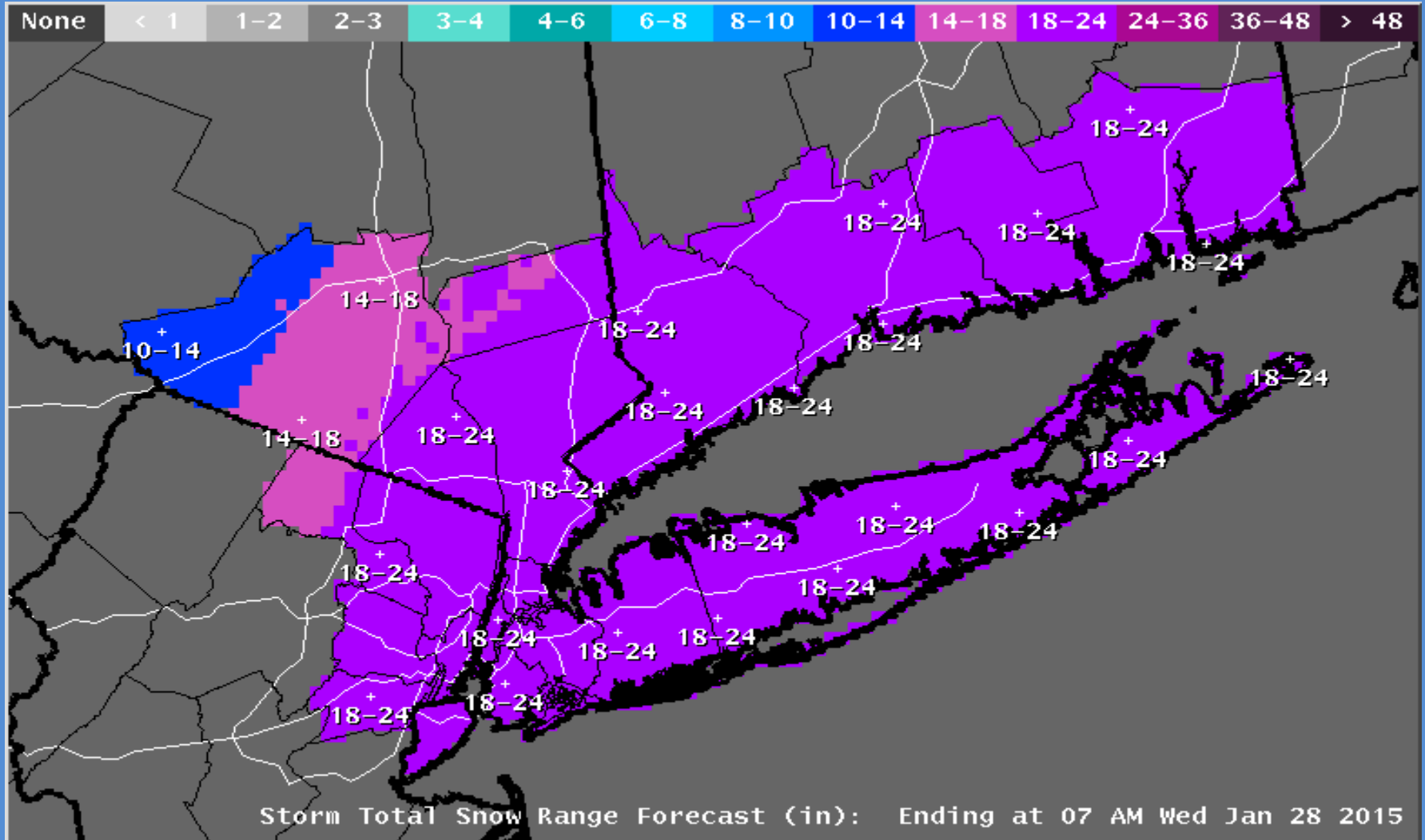
Some Forecast Uncertainty – Snow Band Locations

- General 18 to 24 inches of snow across the area with locally higher amounts.
- 2-4 inch snowfall rates...whiteout conditions...and 3+ ft. snow amounts possible where snow band develops.





Most Likely: 7 AM Mon – 7 AM Wed



NOAA / National Weather Service New York, NY





Timing



- **Light Snow** developing early this morning.
- Snow becomes heavy this evening continuing into Tuesday.
- **Heaviest Snow and Strongest Winds** : This evening thru Tuesday Morning.
- **Snow** (Ratios of 12 to 1) Blowing/Drifting.



Questions?



- Get the latest information at:
 - www.weather.gov/nyc
 - [Area Forecast Discussion](#)
 - [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [Facebook/Twitter](#)



**National Weather Service
New York, NY**