

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Service Changes

National NWS-wide implementation effective November 1, 2018

NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) began new warning services on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) as of November 1, 2018.

Snow Squall Warning

All WFOs now may issue short-fused, polygon-based **Snow Squall Warnings**.

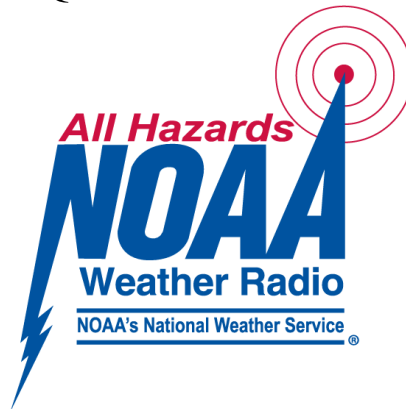
Issuance criteria: WFOs will issue Snow Squall Warnings for intense but limited duration periods of moderate to heavy snowfall accompanied by gusty surface winds and resulting in greatly reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions.

Snow accumulation generally will not be significant, but snow may accumulate quickly on cold road surfaces. Rapidly falling temperatures in conjunction with the snow may cause dangerous driving conditions. Criteria for issuing this warning will likely vary by region. Snow Squall Warnings will not be issued for areas when Winter Storm or Blizzard Warnings are already in effect.

NWR Service Enhancements

NWS offices will broadcast the Snow Squall Warning with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and the 1050 Hz Warning Alarm Tones.

The Snow Squall Warning will use the /SQW/ SAME code.



In general, residents with SAME-equipped Public Alert™ receivers will receive the following notifications if their receiver is properly programmed with the appropriate Federal Information Processing Series (FIPS) codes:

- The receiver will activate with the SAME alert tones.
- Receivers with a text screen will display **Unknown Warning**. Receivers with color-coded, alert level indicators for Statements, Watches and Warnings will illuminate the **Warning** indicator.

Concerning the Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The NWS appreciates support from broadcasters to further convey these warnings to the public. NWS alerts will include “Immediate Broadcast Requested.”

Snow Squall Warnings will not be sent by broadcasters to the EAS; however, NWS WFO staff will work with emergency managers, state broadcaster associations and State Emergency Communications Committees to further discuss possible recommendations for Snow Squall Warnings to be sent through the EAS in the future.

For dissemination questions, please contact:

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For policy questions, contact:

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For details specific to your area, contact your local Warning Coordination Meteorologist:

www.weather.gov/stormready/contact

Related Websites

NWR Home Page

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

NWS EAS Information

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/eas_description.html

NWR Service Change Notices

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn18-90swq_dsw_operaaa.pdf