



MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS STATEMENT

DATE: January 27, 2015

TIME: 11:30 AM

SUBJECT: Major Winter Storm/Blizzard Impacting the State

WEATHER

The National Weather Service (NWS) reports that this storm will continue to produce very high snow totals along with strong winds.

- Strong winds will continue through the morning hours, diminishing this afternoon and evening.
- Much of Massachusetts from Worcester County eastward will receive an additional 10-12+ inches of snow during the remaining course of the storm.
- Snowfall gradually wraps up late tonight into tomorrow morning.
- One more round of potential minor coastal flooding to occur with the Wednesday morning high tide.
- Chance for some advisory level (2-5 inches) of snowfall Thursday night into Friday.

Watches and Warnings:

The National Weather Service (NWS) reports the following Watches and Warnings:

- Blizzard Warning: Eastern and Southeastern Massachusetts, portions of Central Massachusetts until 1:00am Wednesday. Cape and the Islands until noon today.
- Winter Storm Warning: A winter storm warning remains in effect for portions of Western and Central Massachusetts, Berkshires, Nantucket through 1:00 Wednesday.
- Hurricane Force Wind Warning: This warning remains in effect for Cape Cod Bay, Nantucket Sound, Vineyard Sound, Buzzards Bay until 7:00pm today.
- High Wind Warning: Nantucket County today through 1:00 a.m. Wednesday.
- Coastal Flood Warning: Eastern Massachusetts Coast, including Cape Cod and Nantucket, from 3:00 p.m. through 7:00 p.m. today.

SHELTER STATUS:

Shelters are currently open in the following communities:

Independent/Locally Operated

Acushnet
Boxford
Braintree
Brookline
Cambridge

Carver
Duxbury
Fairhaven
Halifax
Hanover
Kingston
Lakeville
Lynnfield
Marshfield
New Bedford
Newburyport
Orange
Phillipston
Salisbury
Scituate
Sutton
Waltham
West Newbury
Whitman

Locally-Operated/Red Cross Supported:

Barnstable
Bridgewater
Eastham
Fall River
Falmouth
Harwich
Nantucket
Sandwich
Weymouth
Yarmouth

Red Cross Managed:

Lowell
Methuen
Northampton
Plymouth
Tisbury
Worcester

Total Capacity: 9455

Occupancy: 198

STORM REPORTS

SKYWARN observers reported the following snowfall totals in Massachusetts as of 9:45 AM:

Lancaster, MA: 26.0"	Concord, MA: 20.0"
Oxford, MA: 24.0"	Rochdale, MA: 20.0"
Framingham, MA: 24.0"	South Shrewsbury, MA: 20.0"
Concord, MA: 22.0"	Sherborn, MA: 19.4"
Milbury, MA: 21.0"	Northbridge, MA: 19.0"
Sudbury, MA: 20.5"	Georgetown, MA: 18.5"

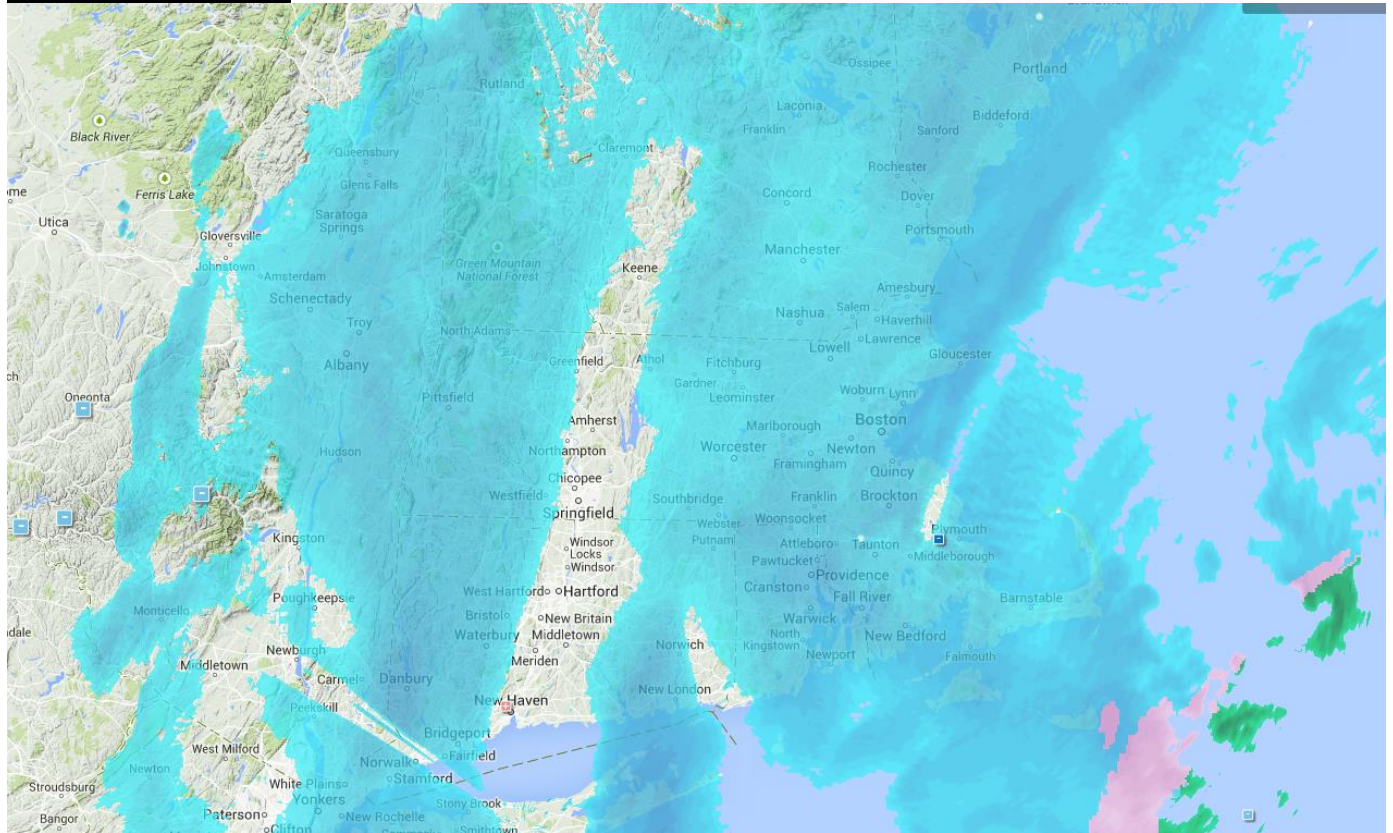
Bedford, MA: 18.3"
South Dartmouth, MA: 17.5"
Smithfield, RI: 16.0"
West Peabody, MA: 16.0"
West Springfield, MA: 12.5"
Bridgewater, MA: 12.5"
Barre, MA: 11.0"

Hampden, MA: 10.5"
Ware, MA: 7.0"
Ashburnham, MA: 7.0"
Ludlow, MA: 6.5"
Springfield, MA: 6.0"
Blandford, MA: 5.0"
Southwick, MA: 5.0"

Snowfall Reports (740-945 AM, Top 10 ONLY):

Shrewsbury, MA: 26.2"
Lancaster, MA: 26.0"
Oxford, MA: 24.0"
Framingham, MA: 24.0"
Berlin, MA: 24.0"
Concord, MA: 22.0"
Milbury, MA: 21.0"
Norwell, MA: 21.0"
Sudbury, MA: 20.5"
Rochdale, MA: 20.0"

Current Radar Image:



STATUS UPDATE

Local Communities

As of 10:30 AM, 115 cities and towns have declared local states of emergency and 88 have opened local emergency operations centers.

MEMA Regional Offices

MEMA Region 1 (northeast MA) reports no issues at this time.

MEMA Region 2 (southeast MA) reports the following:

- Marshfield – A section of seawall has collapsed in the area of Bay Ave., potentially impacting a neighborhood behind the seawall at the next high tide cycle (~4:30 p.m.). Local public safety officials coordinating on this issue. In addition, one structure on Ocean Avenue is in danger of collapse.
- Nantucket – Island is 100% out of power. Cell phone coverage has gone down. MEMA is in communication with the Emergency Management Director. The town is assessing its potential need for shelter support. MEMA is working with National Grid to evaluate the problem and likely duration of the outage. FD HQ generator has failed. FD HQ is using radio communications and relocating people to other offices with power.
- Sandwich – EOC reports their UHF/VHF communications are down for EOC, Fire, and DPW. It is unknown if this is due to power issues, ice or structure damage. ESF-2 is working through this issue.
- Scituate – 2 National Guard vehicles assisted with evacuating public from flooded neighborhoods. Requesting vehicles to be available for afternoon high tide.
- Hull – 2 National Guard vehicles and one MSP vehicle are on scene to assist with emergency access to flooded areas. Requesting 2 National Guard vehicles to be available for afternoon high tide.
- Barnstable County MACC – has requested transport assistance to move medical personnel and clients to shelters.

MEMA Region 3/4 (central and western MA) reports the following:






- One resource request: Oxford looking for plows.



MassDOT

MassDOT reports the following general information:

- Travel ban in effect from midnight (00:00 1/27/2015) until further notice on Massachusetts roadways.
- All Districts are in Snow and Ice Operation.
- MBTA Service suspended for Tuesday, January 27, 2015.
- Most RTAs have suspended service for Tuesday, January 27, 2015.
- Per MSP, the speed limit on I-90 has been reduced to 40 MPH from the New York Border to the Rt-495 Interchange (Exit 11A). Currently no restrictions on propane or tandems.
- The Steamship Authority has suspended ferry service for the day.

District Conditions and Impacts	
District	Comments
Overall/HOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Districts continue in snow and ice operations. • Travel Ban is still in effect across the state. • Speed limit reduced to 40 MPH on I-90 from the NY border to 128 Weston.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93N exit 14 closed to Morrissey Blvd. due to flooding • Oak Bluffs, Beach Rd at Heart Haven, closed to Edgartown due to high winds and flooding. • Vineyard Haven, State Road both directions 5 corners to Eastville Rd closed due to high winds and ocean splash over. • Statewide Summary: • 3900 Pieces of equipment. • 767 MassDOT employees.
<p>District 1 (Lenox)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 1 – Is reporting light to moderate snow. Roadways are snow covered. The district is plowing the roads. • 63 Pieces of hired equipment. • 36 MassDOT pieces of equipment. • 76 MassDOT employees. • Max. Snow Amounts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1A – 6.5 inches ○ 1B – 5.50 inches ○ 1C – 3 inches ○ 1D – 5.50 inches
<p>District 2 (Northampton)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowfall is still moderate to heavy with moderate to high winds • Crews are plowing all roadways are passable • Now seeing a lot of drifting • 255 Pieces of hired equipment • 53 MassDOT pieces of equipment. • 117 MassDOT employees. • Max. Snow Amounts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2A – 7 inches ○ 2B – 7.50 inches ○ 2C – 9 inches
<p>District 3 (Worcester)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 3 Is reporting heavy snow. Roadways are snow covered. The district is chemically treating and plowing the roads. • 547 Pieces of hired equipment. • 51 MassDOT pieces of equipment. • 157 MassDOT employees • A hired combo operating out of our Hopkinton Depot swiped the side of a State Police Cruiser with his wing. There is some damage to the cruiser, no injuries to report and no impact to traffic. • Max. Snow Amounts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3A - 17 inches ○ 3B – 21 inches ○ 3C - 22 inches
<p>District 4 (Arlington)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 4 Is reporting moderate to heavy snow. Roadways are snow covered. The district continues to plow the roads. • 1382 Pieces of hired equipment. • 28 MassDOT pieces of equipment. • 141 MassDOT employees. • Max. Snow Amounts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4A - 20 inches ○ 4B – 19.50 inches ○ 4C - 18 inches
<p>District 5 (Taunton)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 5 Is reporting moderate to heavy snow. Roadways are snow and pack covered. The district is plowing the roads.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D5 continues to experience white out conditions coastal flooding and high winds. • The CNG site in Middleboro is still not working. • At 2:42 Martha's Vineyard at Canonicus Avenue in Oak Bluffs has been closed due to 70 mph winds causing the surf cresting over seawall. • Plymouth Rte. 3A at Burt's Restaurant reopened at this time. • Temperatures lower than expected are ranging between 15 and 22 degrees across the districts. • R&W contains current hired and state staffing. • Power outage in Bourne/ Sagamore depots. • Falmouth police investigating leaning telephone pole over Rte. 28 @ Crap Apple Restaurant. Power Company has been called. • 1034 Pieces of hired equipment. • 24 MassDOT pieces of equipment. • 139 MassDOT employees. • Max. Snow Amounts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5A - 21 inches ○ 5B - 18.50 inches ○ 5C - 18 inches ○ 5D - 17 inches ○ 5E - 14 inches
<p>District 6 (Boston)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 6 is reporting moderate to heavy snow. Roadways are snow and pack covered. The district continues to plow the roads. • 376 of hired equipment. • 53 MassDOT pieces of equipment. • 137 MassDOT employees • Max. Snow Amounts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6A - 19.50 inches ○ 6B - 20 inches ○ 6C - 10.50 inches ○ 6D - 16 inches

General Conditions and Impacts

- MBTA - All service suspended for Tuesday (1/27/2015).
- All Regional Transit Authorities (with the exception of Vineyard Transit Authority) have suspended service for Tuesday, January 27,
- 2015.
- All Amtrak service on the Downeaster Line between Maine and Boston and the Springfield line is now suspended through Tuesday, January 27, 2015.
- The Steamship Authority has suspended all of Tuesday's ferry service for the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.
- Amtrak is suspending service for Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

Department of Recreation and Conservation

DCR reports the following:

Snow Operations:

- All DCR crews and private contractors continue to work on snow clearing.
- 2 Snow Depots reporting low salt reserves. Plan in progress to pick up salt from DOT District 6 Somerville.
- DCR contractor is unable to open for delivery. DOT will support DCR needs.

Road Closures:

- Morrissey Blvd will remain closed until further notice
- Winthrop Parkway in Revere at Winthrop Line closed until further notice
- Quincy Shore Drive is not passable.
- All Hull DCR roads are now re-open
- Winthrop Parkway at Short Beach has been re-opened

Facilities:

- Park Visitor Centers, HQ and buildings remain closed for snow operations.
- DCR rinks and the Melnea Cass Recreation Center closed until further notice.

Communications:

- DCR radio communications showing no issues with power loss

Snow Desk:

- State and regional snow desks continue with operations. Tree and Saw Crews remain on standby for any debris issues.

Department of Environmental Protection (ESF 10)

MassDEP Water Supply has been in contact with Worcester Water Department. Initially a broken main was reported at 8:18 AM through WebEOC however DEP contacted Worcester Water Department and determined that the issue was actually a fire suppression pipe break that caused flooding into the street. Worcester has isolated the pipe and reopened the main. No further issues at this time.

Department of Public Safety

DPS reports the following:

- Scituate flooded neighborhood.
- Sandwich Freeman Ave Many homes flooded. No indication of extent of damage from either community
- Orleans: Orleans Inn flooded (social media report)
- Marshfield- 20 structures (summer and year round homes) flooded (12 on Bay Ave, 5 on Ocean St, and 6 on Foster Ave).
- Duxbury- Gurnet Rd. Several households flooded
- Marshfield- 80ft section of seawall has collapsed.

MA Department of Public Health

MDPH reports the following:

- ESF-8 desk is assisting with a volunteer request for the shelter in Cambridge. Region 4b MRC has volunteers on standby if they are needed.
- MDPH continues to field questions regarding the travel ban.
- ESF-8 is in communication with MASSMAP to determine the status of the long term care facility on Nantucket.
- ESF-8 has spoken with the hospital on Nantucket 4 times to determine the status of at home oxygen dependent patients assuring the power outage on the island does not affect their ability to obtain their need for oxygen.
- MDPH staff continues to reach out to the hospitals to confirm or update their status.
- MDPH has scheduled a conference call with health care facilities and EMS services for 10:30am. A call with local health and MRC's is scheduled for 2:30pm.

MA State Police

MSP reports the following:

TROOP A:

No significant updates however the ramp from Rt 2 westbound to 45 north is closed. Mass Highway in route with Front End Loader. A SAM Y was sent on that separately.

TROOP B:

No changes.

TROOP C:

No Changes in weather or road conditions. One significant event: A pregnant female en route to Leominster Hospital became stranded on the ramp from Rte. 2W to Rte. 12S in Leominster. With assistance from the National Guard, she was extricated from her vehicle and transported to the Hospital, by a Trooper from C-4, in a 4 wheel drive MSP vehicle.

TROOP D:

Snow is falling, heavy winds and Mass DOT is still maintaining the roadways. Troop manpower stands at 70 officers. The following is occurring in Troop D:

- Several minor spinouts and cars off the roadway.
- SP Norwell is off generator power.
- SP Yarmouth reporting Orleans PD has closed Rte. 28 re flooding & debris.

TROOP E

Snow slowing in Western Mass. Roadway still snow covered and slippery. Experiencing slipping and sliding E-1 (Weston) and E-4 (Tunnels) areas. Restrictions on propane and Tandems are still in effect. Speed reduced to 40 mph entire length of turnpike.

TROOP F:

Troop F reports for the following airports:

- Logan: Winds approx. 31 MPH, 15 degrees. Roadways passable. No snow removal at AOA at this time. Status open.
- Hanscom: Heavy snow, temps 11 degrees. Plowing on roadways, not passable. Status closed.
- Worcester: Heavy snow conditions, whiteout conditions at times. Roadways are snow covered making travel difficult. Status closed.

Troop F reports for the following terminals:

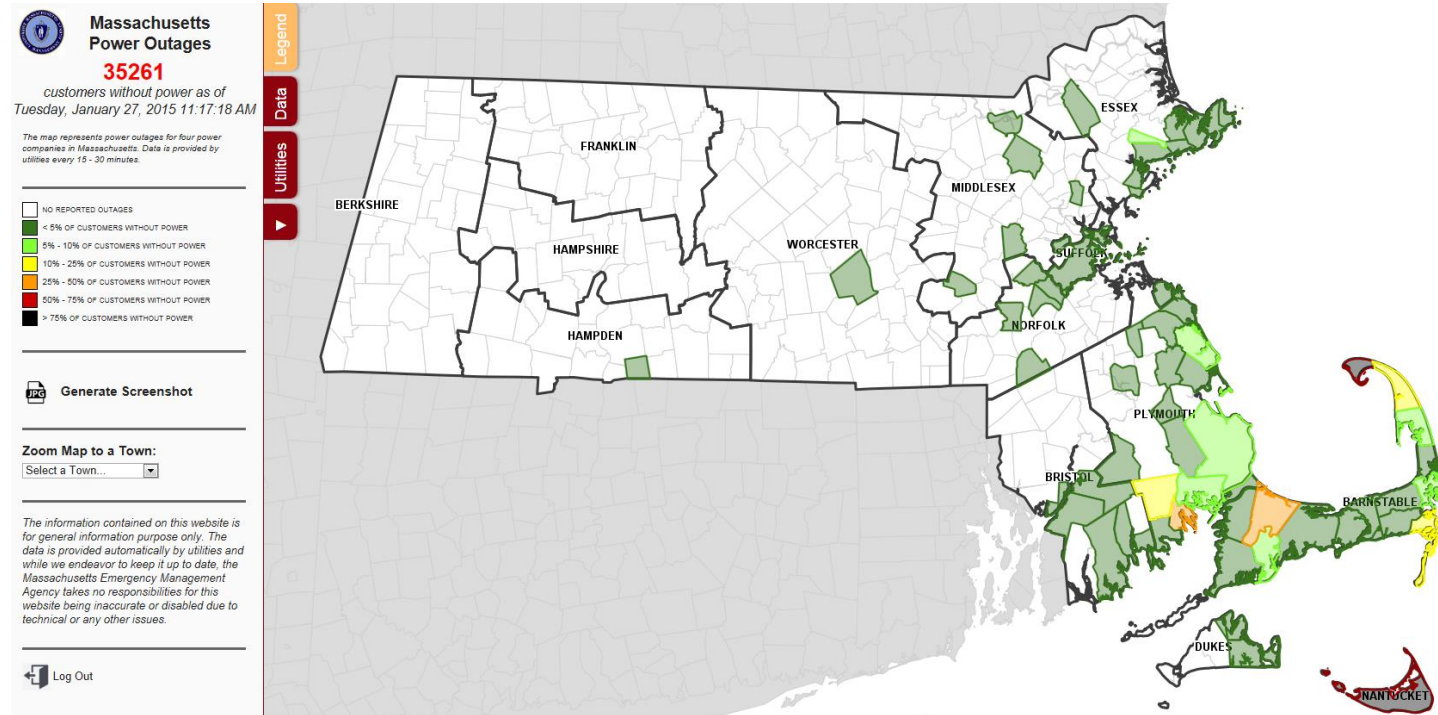
- Seaport: Heavy snow, temp 15 degrees Snow covered. Plow traffic only. Snow accumulation building on surfaces
- Conley Container Terminal: Heavy snow, 15 degrees. Roadways snow covered but passable. Status of port- open.
- Charlestown Properties: Heavy snow, temp 15 degrees. Roadways snow covered. Plows or emergency vehicles only. No outages.

TROOP H:

No significant changes. Quincy Shore Drive remains closed. Morrissey Boulevard is expected to remain closed through the next high tide.

Utilities Status:

Power Outage Image



Customer Outage Numbers as of 11:17 a.m.:

NSTAR 21752
National Grid 13509
WMECO 0
Unitil 0

Total 35,261

MEMA OPERATIONS

The State Emergency Operations Center is operating at Level 3 (Full Activation). Regional EOCs in Tewksbury, Bridgewater, and Agawam are staffed and operational.

The SEOC Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance Sections are stood up and are supported by liaisons from the following Emergency Support Functions (ESFs):

- ESF-1 (Transportation)
- ESF-2 (Communications)
- ESF-3 (Public Works & Engineering)
- ESF-4 (Firefighting)
- ESF-5 (Business and Industry)

ESF-6 (Mass Care)
ESF -7 (Volunteers and Donations)
ESF-8 (Health and Medical)
ESF-9 (Search and Rescue)
ESF-10 (Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection)
ESF-12 (Energy)
ESF-13 (Public Safety and Security)
ESF-15 (Public Information)
ESF-16 (Military Support)

STAY INFORMED

For additional information and updated forecasts, see www.weather.gov/boston (National Weather Service Taunton) and www.weather.gov/albany (National Weather Service Albany)

Utilize *Massachusetts Alerts* to receive emergency notifications and information from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service. *Massachusetts Alerts* is a free app that is available for Android and iPhones. To learn more about *Massachusetts Alerts*, and for information on how to download the free app onto your smartphone, visit: www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp.

Utilize MEMA's real-time power outage viewer to stay informed about current power outages in your community and region, and across the state, including information from utility companies about restoration times: <http://mema.mapsonline.net/public.html>

Online Resources:

For additional information and resources, visit:

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency at www.mass.gov/mema

MEMA's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA>

MEMA Twitter: [@MassEMA](https://twitter.com/MassEMA)

Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.fema.gov

National Weather Service/Taunton at www.weather.gov/boston

National Weather Service/Albany, NY at www.weather.gov/albany

National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center: <http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>

Northeast River Forecast Center: <http://www.weather.gov/nerfc/>

Mass211 at www.mass211.org