

WINTER STORM FLASH REPORT

DR 153-26 | South Carolina Winter Weather Event
January 30, 2026 | 8:00 AM EST

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Incident Type:	BLI - Blizzards, snow, hail, or ice storm
Flash Report Reason:	UPGRADED: Winter Storm Watch to Warning
Date/Time of Report:	1/30/2026 8:00 AM EST
Readiness Level:	5 - High
Update Number:	3
Report Prepared By:	Jeff Franzen
Report Approved By:	Gary Pelletier

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

!!! WINTER STORM WARNING & EXTREME COLD WATCH IN EFFECT !!!

Saturday 1 AM through Sunday 4 PM EST

A significant winter storm is impacting portions of South Carolina. The National Weather Service has **UPGRADED the Winter Storm Watch to a Winter Storm Warning** for southeast NC and northeast SC. This event will bring heavy snow, dangerously cold temperatures, and hazardous travel conditions.

KEY IMPACTS:

Snow Totals: 5-8 inches with locally higher amounts; heaviest in northern Pee Dee near NC border.

Wind Chill: Dangerous values as low as 0°F Saturday night into Sunday.

Travel: Could be VERY DIFFICULT Saturday through Sunday. Widespread road impacts expected.

Extreme Cold: **RED (Extreme) hazard risk Saturday through Monday.**

Peak Impacts: Saturday afternoon through Sunday morning.

DETAILED FORECAST - SOUTH CAROLINA

Source: NWS Columbia (CAE) & NWS Wilmington (ILM) | Updated: Jan 30, 2026 7:00 AM EST

Location	Expected Snow	Wind Chill Low
Florence / Pee Dee	5-8 inches	0°F
Myrtle Beach / Horry	4-6 inches	5°F
Georgetown / Williamsburg	4-6 inches	4°F
Marion / Dillon / Marlboro	6-10 inches	-2°F to 0°F
Coastal Waters	Storm Warning Issued	N/A

Note: Heavy snow banding may create significantly higher local totals. Highest totals expected in northern Pee Dee counties near the NC border.

IMPACT TIMELINE

Time Period	Expected Conditions	Impact Level
Friday Evening	Arctic air settling in; temperatures dropping rapidly	LOW
Saturday Morning	Chance of snow after 1 AM; travel impacts developing	MODERATE
Saturday Afternoon	Snow likely after 1 PM; winds 11-15 mph, gusts to 23 mph	HIGH
Saturday Night	PEAK IMPACTS - Heavy snow at times; wind chills as low as 0°F; gusts to 24 mph	EXTREME
Sunday	Snow tapers by 4 PM; bitterly cold continues; travel remains hazardous	HIGH
Sunday Night	Clear skies; low around 8°F; extreme cold continues	HIGH
Monday+	Gradual recovery; refreezing issues may extend travel impacts	MODERATE

RED CROSS CONSIDERATIONS**HAZARDOUS TRAVEL**

Travel could be **VERY DIFFICULT** Saturday through Sunday. Widespread road impacts likely. Bridges and overpasses particularly dangerous. **Staff and volunteer safety must be prioritized.**

SHELTERING NEEDS

High potential for warming center and shelter activations. Extreme cold poses significant risk to unsheltered populations. Frostbite and hypothermia risk elevated, especially Saturday night with wind chills near or below zero.

POWER OUTAGES

Possible outages from snow loading on trees and power lines combined with gusty winds. Prolonged cold will stress heating systems. **Extended outages in these temperatures could be life-threatening.**

CARBON MONOXIDE RISK

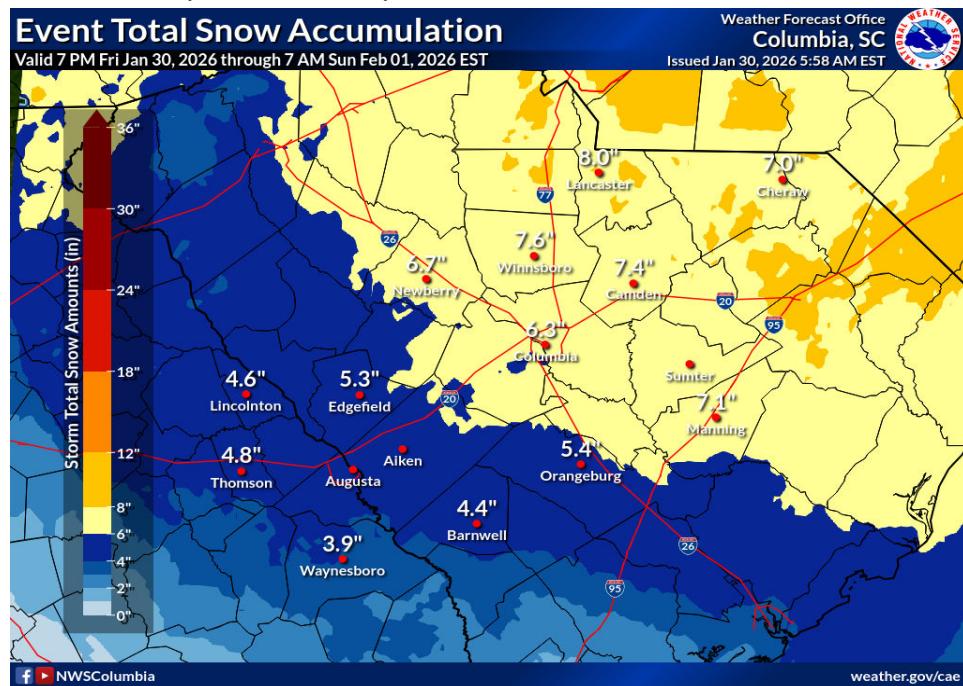
Increased danger as residents use alternative heating methods. Public messaging needed regarding CO detector importance and safe heating practices. **Never use generators, grills, or camp stoves indoors.**

FORECAST CONFIDENCE

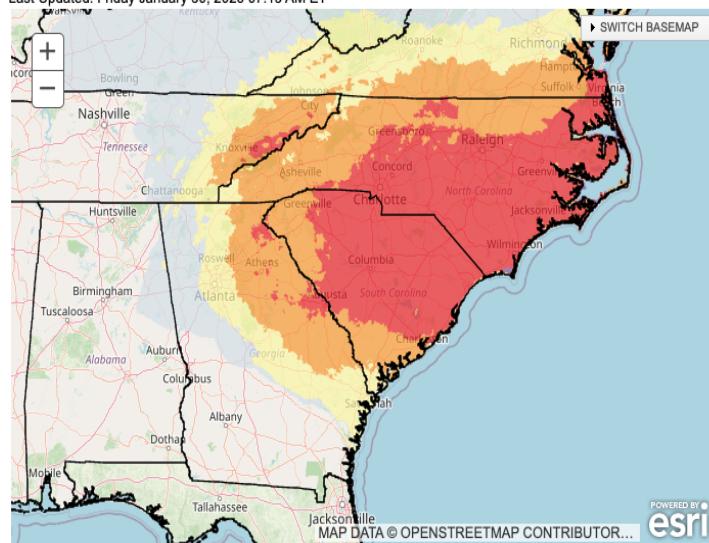
HIGH	Event occurrence, extreme cold, hazardous winds, significant snow impacts for Winter Storm Warning area
MODERATE	Specific snow totals (banding may cause local extremes above forecast)

NWS Data Sources: NWS Columbia (CAE) Winter Weather Forecast, NWS Wilmington (ILM) Winter Weather Message, Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook. Data retrieved January 30, 2026 approximately 7:00-7:30 AM EST.

END OF REPORT

NWS FORECAST MAPS**Event Total Snow Accumulation (NWS Columbia)****Winter Storm Severity Index - Potential Impacts**

Winter Storm Severity Index - Effective From Fri, Jan 30, 2026 07 AM ET Through Mon, Feb 02, 2026 07 AM ET
Last Updated: Friday January 30, 2026 07:13 AM ET



Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
Winter Weather Area	Expect Winter Weather. • Winter driving conditions. Drive carefully.
Minor Impacts	Expect a few inconveniences to daily life. • Winter driving conditions. Use caution while driving.
Moderate Impacts	Expect disruptions to daily life. • Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. • Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
Major Impacts	Expect considerable disruptions to daily life. • Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. • Avoid travel if possible. • Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
Extreme Impacts	Expect substantial disruptions to daily life. • Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Travel is not advised. • Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. • Life-saving actions may be needed.

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