

# WINTER STORM FLASH REPORT

## DR 153-26 | South Carolina Winter Weather Event

January 29, 2026 | 9:30 AM EST

INCIDENT INFORMATION	
Incident Type:	BLI - Blizzards, snow, hail, or ice storm
Affected Counties:	Williamsburg, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Florence, Dillon, Darlington, Marlboro (SC)
Flash Report Reason:	Updated Wx Event
Date/Time of Report:	1/29/2026 9:30 AM EST
Readiness Level:	5 - High
Update Number:	1
Report Prepared By:	Jeff Franzen
Report Approved By:	Gary Pelletier

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ⚠️ WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT ⚠️

Friday Evening January 31 through Sunday February 2

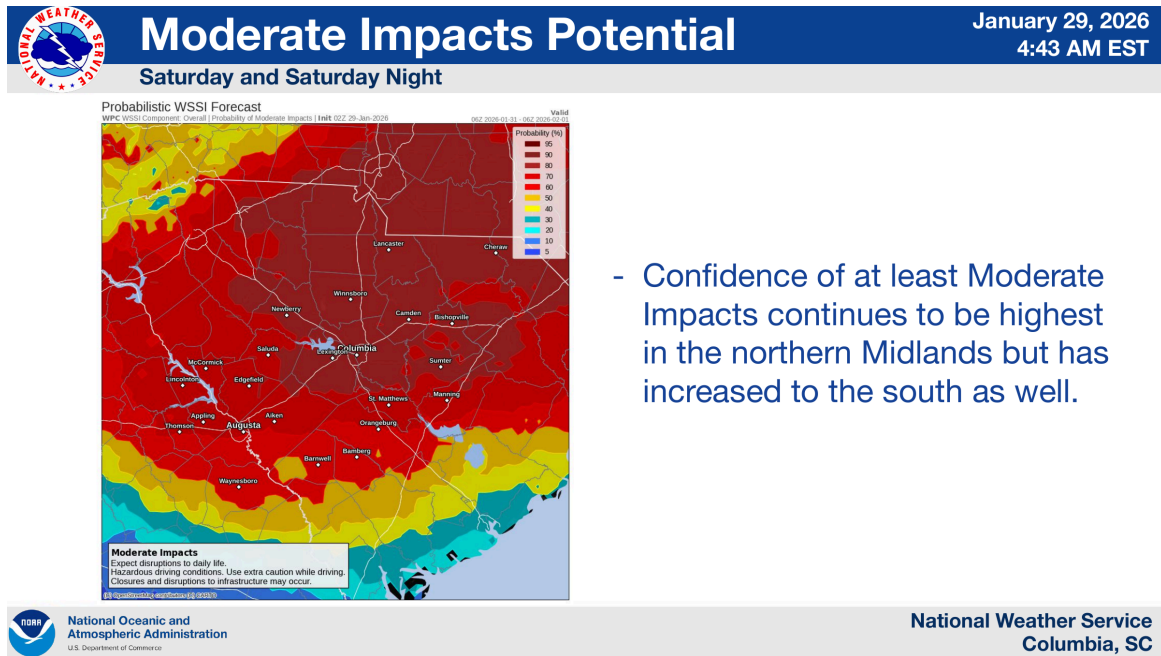
A significant winter storm is forecast to impact South Carolina from Friday evening through the weekend. This event will bring heavy snow, dangerously cold temperatures, and hazardous travel conditions across the Pee Dee and Lowcountry regions.

### KEY IMPACTS:

- **Snow Totals:** 4-8 inches expected across affected SC counties; locally higher amounts possible
- **Wind Chill:** Single digits to below zero Saturday night (-1°F to 5°F)
- **Travel:** Dangerous to impossible Saturday through Monday; widespread closures likely
- **Peak Impacts:** Saturday night into Sunday - potential whiteout conditions

## MODERATE IMPACTS POTENTIAL

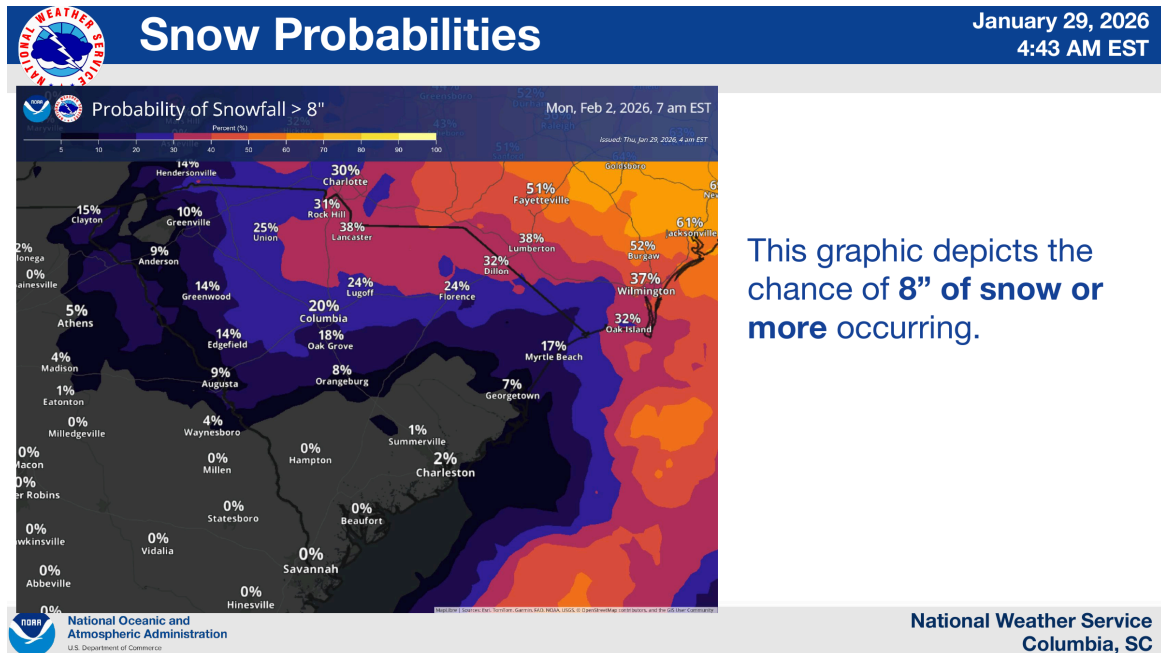
The following map from NWS Columbia shows the probability of moderate impacts across South Carolina Saturday and Saturday night:



Source: NWS Columbia, SC - Moderate Impacts Potential (WSSI)

## SNOW PROBABILITIES - 8 INCHES OR MORE

This map shows the probability of receiving 8 inches or more of snow. The highest probabilities are in the Pee Dee region near the NC border:



Source: NWS Columbia, SC - Probability of Snowfall > 8"

## DETAILED FORECAST - SOUTH CAROLINA

Location	Expected Snow	Wind Chill Low
Florence / Pee Dee	5-8 inches	-1°F
Myrtle Beach / Horry	3-5 inches	5°F
Georgetown / Williamsburg	3-5 inches	5°F
Marion / Dillon / Marlboro	5-8 inches	0°F

Note: Heavy snow banding may create significantly higher local totals in some areas. The highest totals are expected in the 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	Snow begins in northern areas; hazardous travel develops	MODERATE
Saturday Afternoon	Heavy snow likely; strong winds 25-35 mph gusts	HIGH
Saturday Night	<b>PEAK IMPACTS - Heavy snow, dangerous wind chills 0°F to -1°F, potential whiteout conditions</b>	EXTREME
Sunday	Snow tapers; bitterly cold continues; travel remains hazardous	HIGH
Monday+	Gradual recovery; refreezing issues may extend travel impacts	MODERATE

## RED CROSS CONSIDERATIONS

**HAZARDOUS TRAVEL**

Dangerous to impossible driving conditions Saturday through Monday. Widespread road closures 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 sub-zero wind chills.

### 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

<b>HIGH</b>	Event occurrence, extreme cold, snow occurrence, hazardous winds
<b>MODERATE</b>	Specific snow totals (banding may cause local extremes above forecast)

### END OF REPORT ###