



Email Weather Briefing
Courtesy: NOAA/NWS, Portland, OR
March 23, 2015

Emergency Managers and Public Safety Officials,

SYNOPSIS: As a cooler air mass spreads over southwest Washington and northwest Oregon today and lowers snow levels to near or below pass elevations, a rather strong low is forecast to develop and approach the coast later today. The center of the low is forecast to move onshore near Pacific City around midnight tonight, and moves eastward through the central Willamette Valley and into the Cascades overnight. Look for rather strong winds south of the track of the low center tonight, as well as snow advisory type snow accumulations in the Cascades tonight.

PRIMARY AREAS IMPACTED:

Winds: High Wind Watch has been issued for the central Oregon coast and central Oregon Coast Range (south to southwest winds 30 to 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph), and a Wind Advisory for the central and south Willamette Valley (south to southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts 45 to 55 mph).

Snow: Winter Weather Advisory for snow has been issued for the north and central Oregon Cascades and the south Washington Cascades. Amounts will range from as high as 6 to 10 inches in Lane County to 4 to 8 inches north of Mount Hood. Brisk winds will likely cause some areas of blowing snow, especially south of Mount Jefferson or so.

IMPACTS:

Winds: The winds will likely cause tree damage as well as power disruptions. The winds will affect travel on bridges, as well as affecting travel of high profile vehicles such as trucks and recreational vehicles and vehicles towing trailers.

Snow: Roads across the Cascades will become snow covered and slick, requiring the use of traction tires and devices. The winds will cause areas of blowing snow affecting visibility and the stability of some vehicles.

TIMING:

Winds: The winds will increase along the coast near or shortly after 5 pm, over the coast range in the next couple of hours, and in the central and south Willamette Valley after 8 pm. The winds will be over between 3 and 5 am Tuesday.

Snow: Modest snow accumulations of 2 to 4 inches are possible today. The snow will increase after 5 pm and spread northward through the evening, decreasing by sunrise on Tuesday.

FORECAST CONFIDENCE: Forecast confidence is moderate. The greatest uncertainty is in the track of the low center and in the precision of the forecast of where the winds will cut off. If the low center moves inland a bit to the north or to the south, the winds will either spread a bit farther northward or be confined more to the south. Our models are converging on the low center making landfall around Pacific City, so this is currently the most likely scenario. The low off the coast is forecast to strengthen considerably today, so the ultimate depth of the low could affect the strength of the winds, and there is a chance the winds could be stronger, especially in the Willamette Valley.

As far as the snow goes, confidence in the snow is also moderate. The greatest uncertainty is in the snow accumulation totals. The forecast above is our best estimate.

UNCERTAINTIES: The exact track of the low center and the ultimate depth or strength of the low are the greatest uncertainties early this morning.

If you need more detailed information or support, please contact us. For information on how to receive our warnings via our iNWS notification system, contact tyree.wilde@noaa.gov.

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