

# Winter Storm Watch: 16 February 2021

**BLUF:** A winter storm is anticipated to impact most areas of Maryland on Thursday, bringing the potential for significant snow and/or ice accumulations.

**Situation:** All counties west of the Chesapeake Bay, including Cecil County, are under a Winter Storm Watch. The storm is expected to begin early Thursday morning (between 4-7 AM) and last through Thursday night. Snow accumulations of five or more inches are possible with a quarter inch of ice accumulation possible.

Most effects from last week's winter weather have been managed by emergency services. There are minimal power outages across the state. Current high temperatures reach to the mid to upper 40s and low temperatures tonight are expected to dip into the upper teens and low 20s, with gusty winds.

**Contact:** MJOC: 410-517-3600

Director on Call: Bob Thomas

Duty Officer: Gary Zamerski

# Potential Impacts – Community Lifelines:



Safety and Security

Impacts: NSTR



Communications

Impacts: Power outages may occur due to ice accumulation on power lines and weakened trees.



Food, Water, Sheltering

Impacts: Warming centers in jurisdictions of Annapolis, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel County are open (via WebEOC).



Transportation

Impacts: Expect dangerous road conditions, leading to delays and/or possible closures.



Health and Medical

Impacts: COVID-19 testing and vaccination activity may be postponed or cancelled due to winter weather, dependent on local jurisdictions.



Hazardous Material

Impacts: NSTR



Energy

Impacts: Power outages may occur due to ice accumulation on power lines and weakened trees.

## LIFELINES COLOR CODES

**Green** = Impacts are absent, minimal, or stabilized

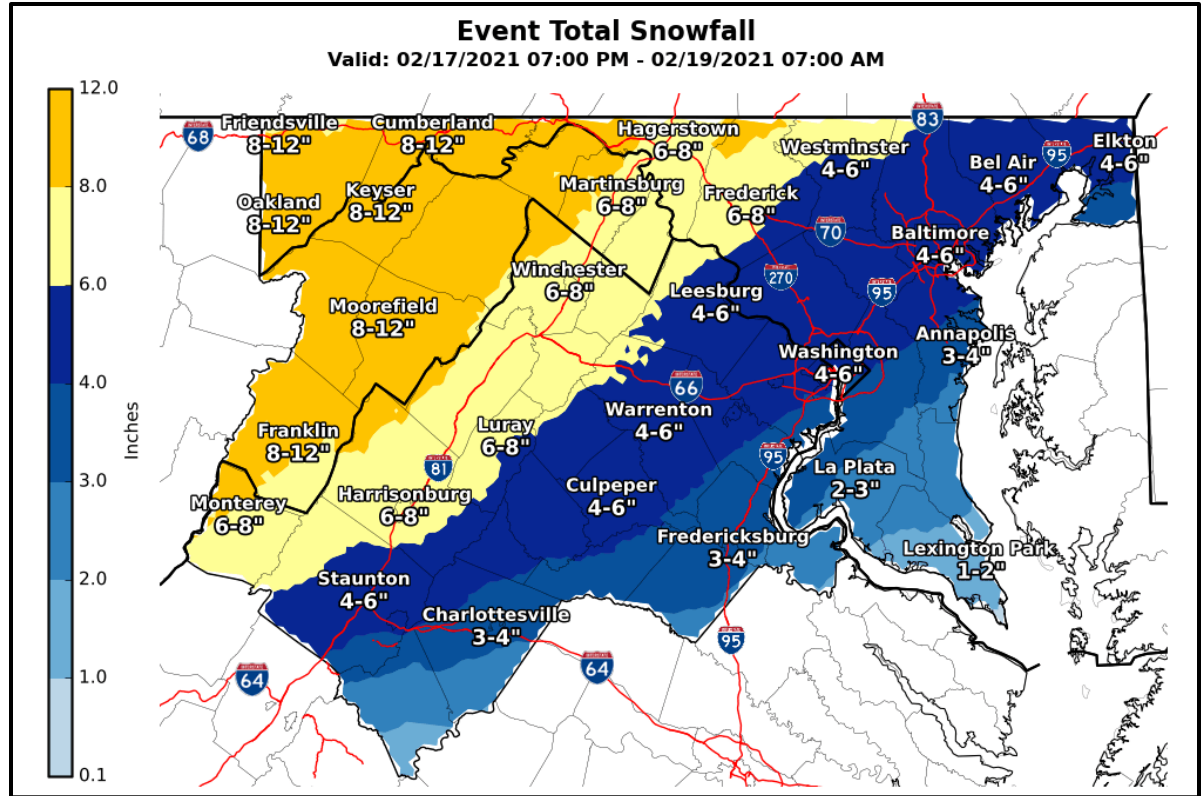
**Amber** = Moderate impacts with an identified solution/plan

**Red** = Significant impacts & limitations, no identified solution/plan

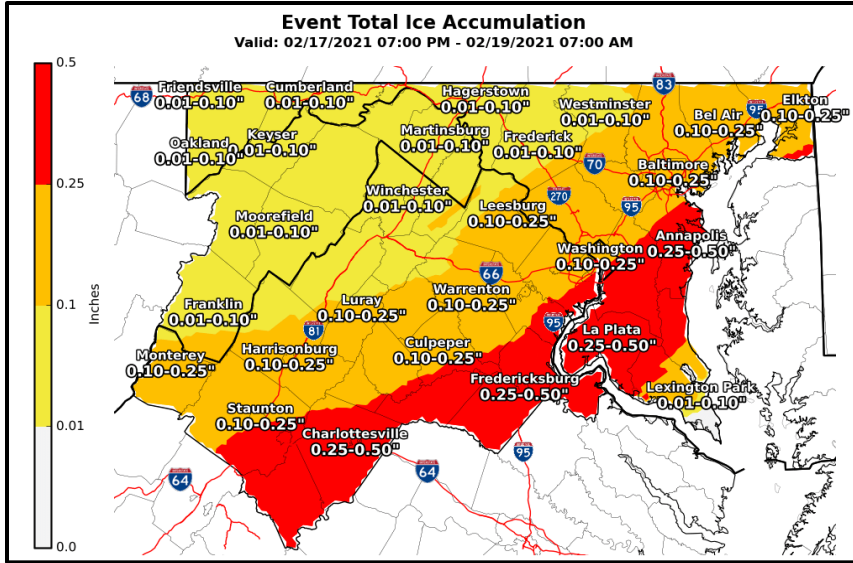
**Gray** = Impacts are unknown

# Potential Impacts & Risk Analysis: Snow Accumulation

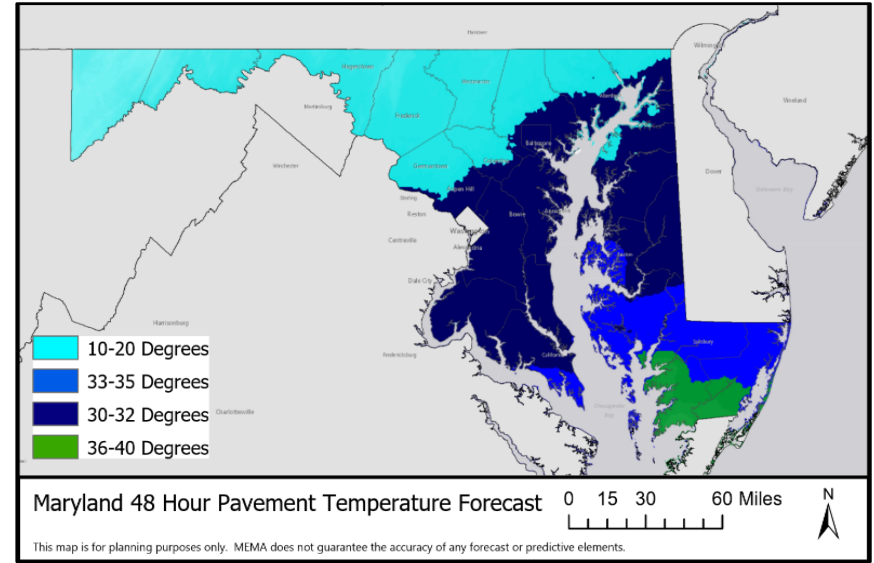
- Moderate to significant snow accumulations are possible in areas north and west of the I-95 corridor and north of US-50.
- Between the I-95 and I-81 corridors, there will likely be a tight gradient of moderate to heavy snow accumulations to the north and west, to low snow accumulations to the south and east.
- Areas that see lighter snow accumulations will see the higher potential for sleet to mix in and ice accretions from freezing rain.
- Highest chance for accumulating snowfall will be mid Thursday morning through afternoon.



# Potential Impacts & Risk Analysis: Ice Accumulation



- Light to moderate ice accretions are likely for Central Maryland, Southern Maryland, the National Capital Region and the Upper Eastern Shore.
- The highest chance for ice accretion will be late Thursday morning into the evening.



- Surface temperatures for most of the state will drop well below freezing Tuesday night and struggle to get above freezing Wednesday. This will cool road temperatures quickly.
- Low pavement temperature will exacerbate ice accretion on both shores of the Chesapeake Bay.