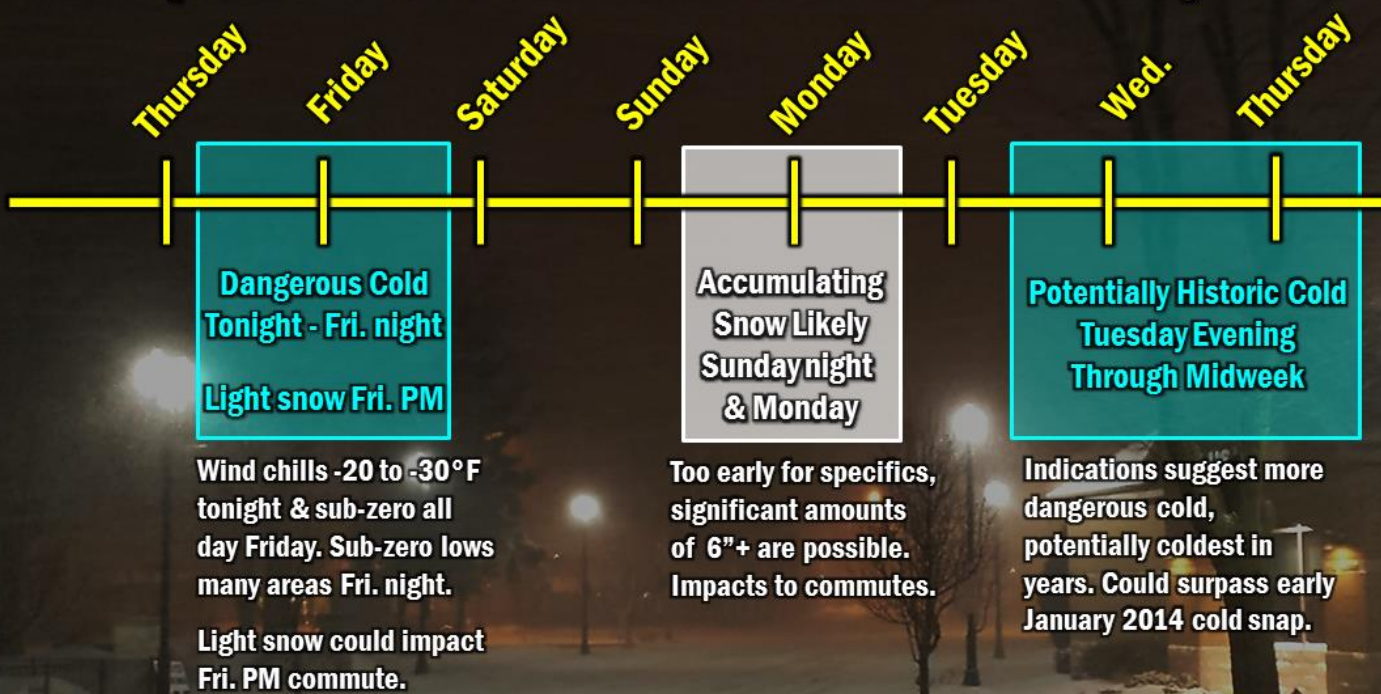


## Potentially Dangerous Winter Weather & Cold Ahead

### Potentially Dangerous Winter Weather Multiple Bouts of Severe Winter Conditions Likely



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#### Message of the Day:

- Dangerous cold tonight through Friday night
- Potentially significant snow Sunday night into Monday
- Coldest air mass in years, if not record cold, arrives late Tuesday and persists into Thursday

#### Important Forecast Changes

Initial issuance

NEW

## Winter Weather & Cold

### Key Points



**Hazards:** Multiple & extended rounds of bitterly cold temperatures. Possibly significant snowfall Sunday night into Monday with additional smaller snow systems (Friday, Sunday-south, late Thursday)



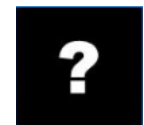
**Areas Impacted:** Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana



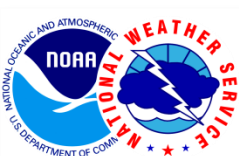
**Timing & Duration:** Initial round of bitterly cold air tonight into Friday night, with even colder air returning Tuesday night through Thursday night. Most significant snow event expected Sunday night into Monday



**Impacts:** Bitterly cold temperatures can lead to rapid onset of frostbite and hypothermia. Heavy snowfall can result in snow covered roads and hazardous travel conditions.



**Certainty & Considerations:** It is unusual to forecast record temperatures, especially 5+ days out; however, there has so far been a very consistent signal that record or near record cold temps could occur through the latter half of next week. In addition, strong winds appear possible at times, especially Tuesday night into Wednesday. In addition, while it's still early to pin down details on snow amounts Sunday/Monday, there has been a consistent signal for several days now that some locations in northern Illinois and northwest Indiana could see 6+ inches of snow.



## Winter Weather & Cold

### Key Points



**Historical Perspective:** Record or near record cold is expected by midweek. January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 was the last time we were nearly this cold.

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Hi/lo:

Chicago: -2°F/-16°F

Rockford: -7°F/-18°F

#### Chicago Daily Record Cold Temperatures

##### Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: 3°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -15°F

---

**Current Forecast: Hi: -3°F; Lo: -11°F**

##### Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: 1°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -12°F

---

**Current Forecast: Hi: 1°F; Lo: -14°F**

#### Rockford Daily Record Cold Temperatures

##### Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: -3°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -19°F

---

**Current Forecast: Hi: -6°F; Lo: -15°F**

##### Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: -3°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -18°F

---

**Current Forecast: Hi: -2°F; Lo: -19°F**



## Dangerously Cold Wind Chills Tonight & Early Friday

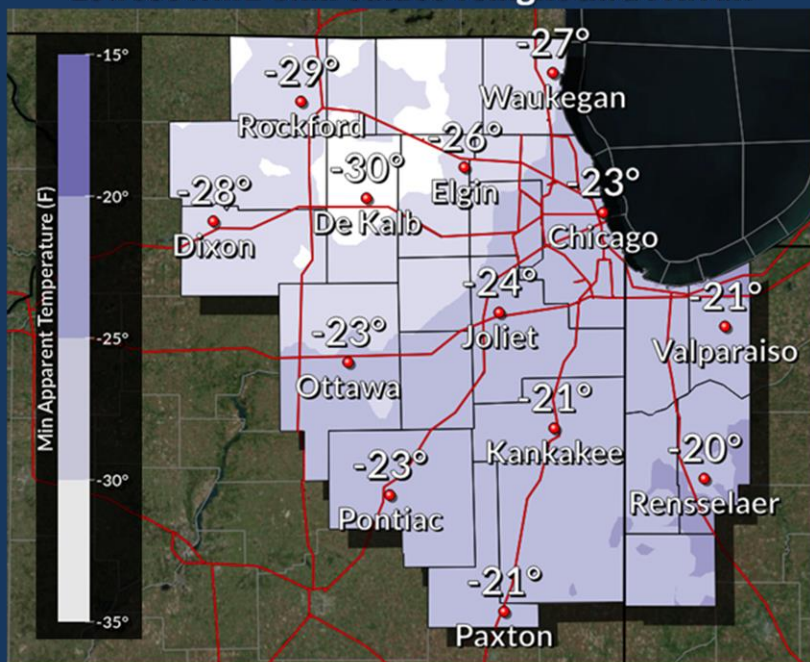
### Min Wind Chills Tonight & Friday AM

#### Dangerous Cold Tonight - Friday Morning

Wind Chills 20 to 30 Below Zero, Locally Colder...Wind Chill Advisory in Effect



##### Lowest Wind Chill Values Tonight thru Fri. AM

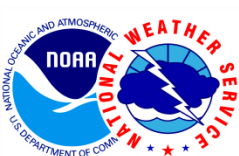


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- ✓ Dress in layers, hat & gloves. Cover exposed skin.
- ✓ Know the signs of frostbite & hypothermia.
- ✓ **Avoid prolonged time outdoors if possible.**
- ✓ Bring pets indoors.

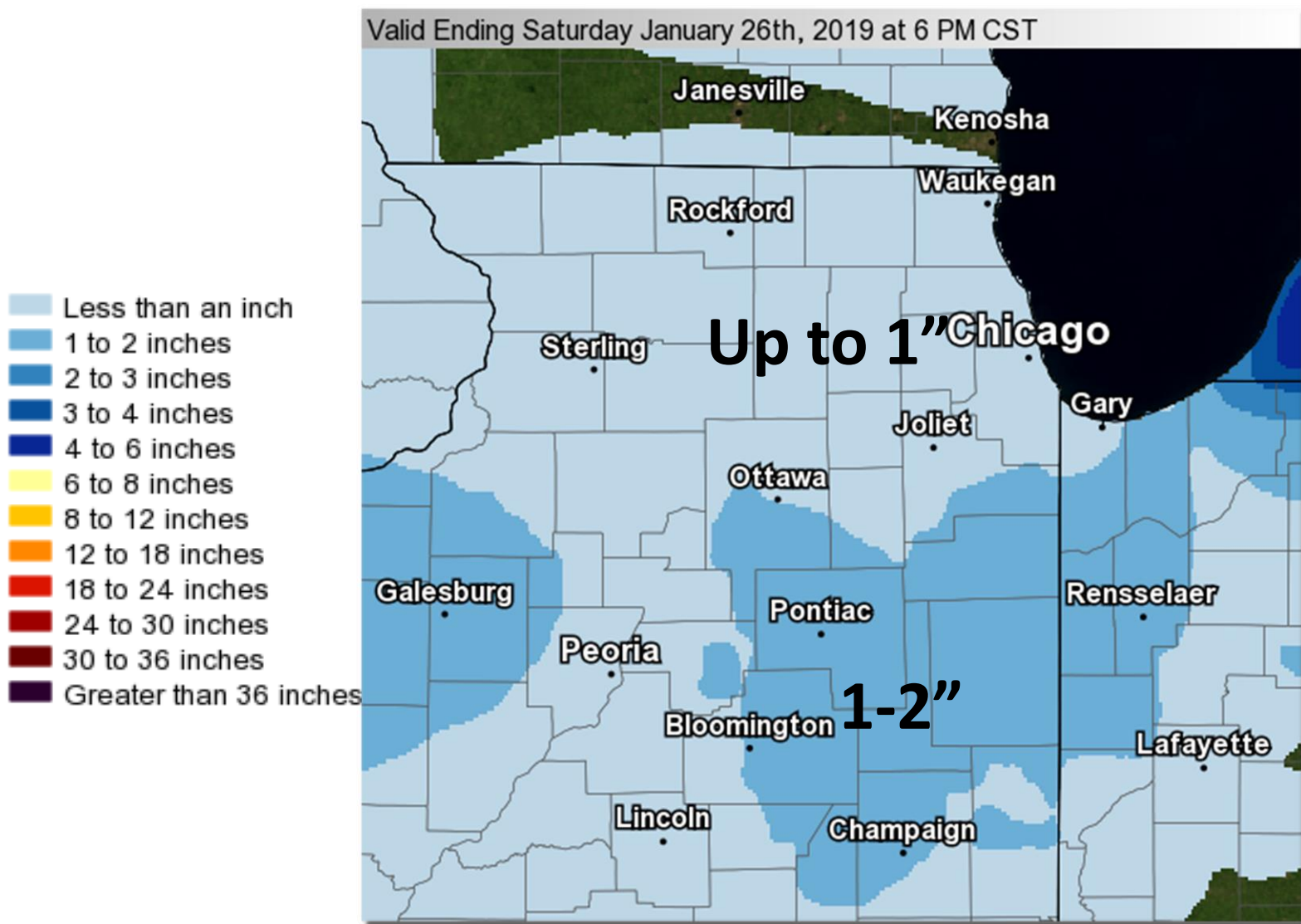
- 
- Fri. AM Lows: **-2° to -13°**
  - Fri. PM Highs: **+2° to 15°**
  - Gusts (mph): 25-35 tonight, 15-25 Fri AM.
  - Patchy blowing snow in open areas of N. IL.





## Light Snow Event Late Friday

### 48 hour Forecast Snowfall

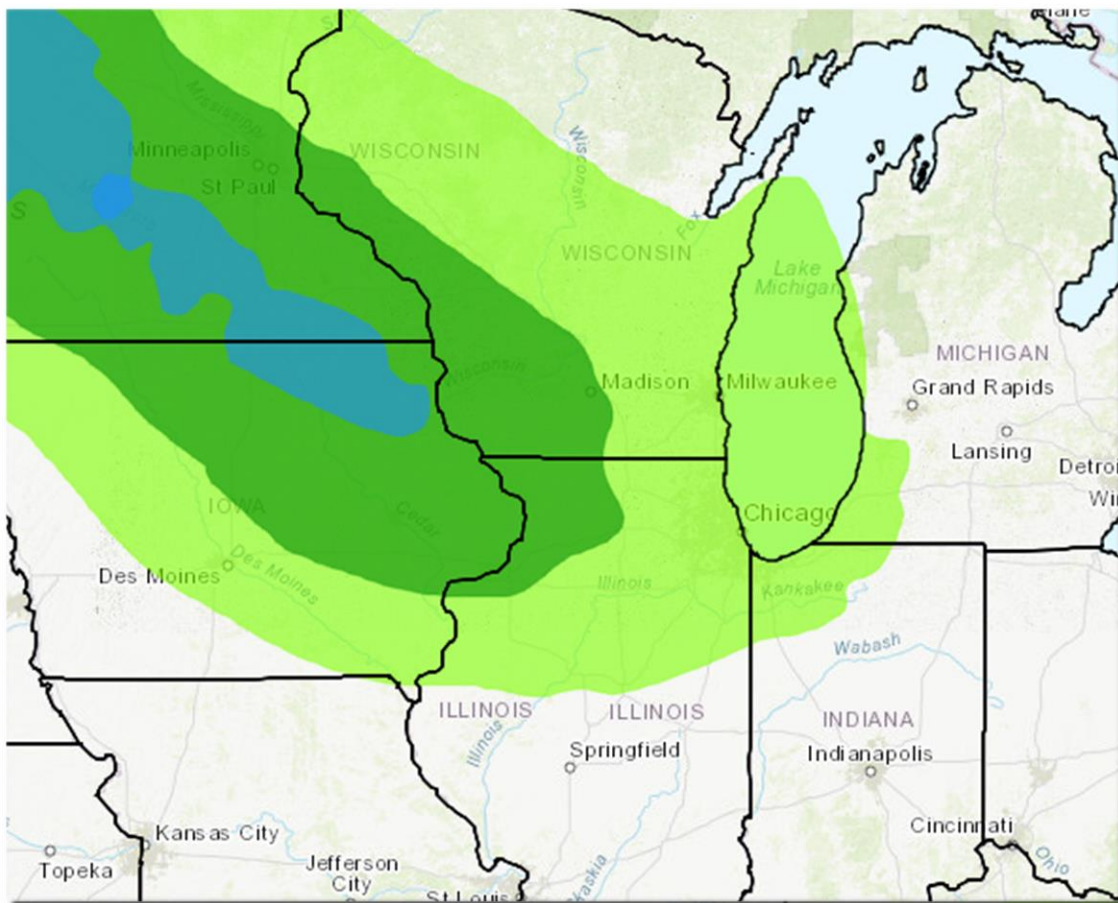


## Outlook

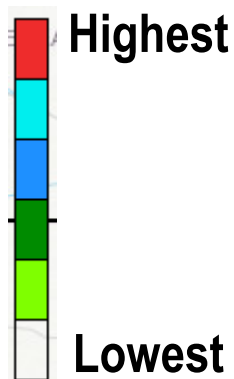
Most areas in northern Illinois should see up to an inch of snow late Friday and Friday night. 1-2 inches is possible across portions of central/east central Illinois



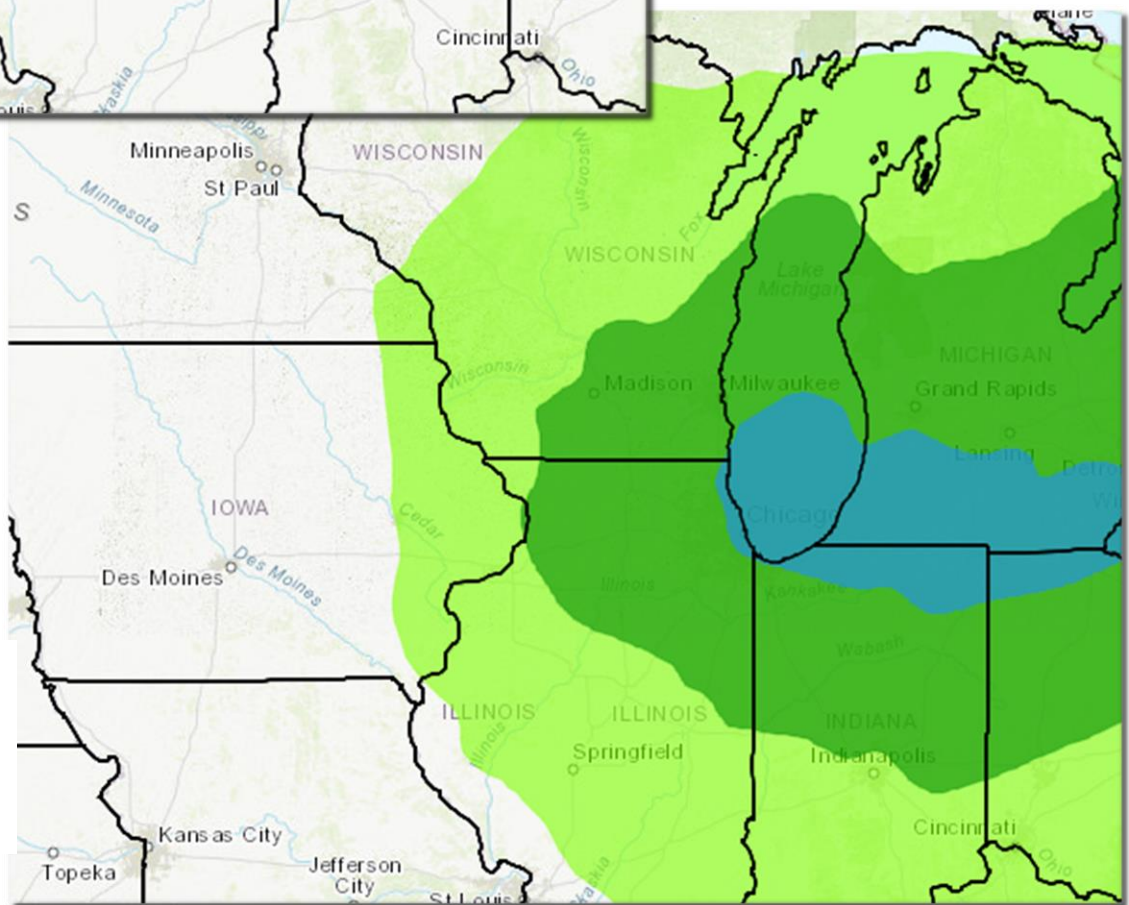
## Heavy Snow Possible Sunday night & Monday



**Greatest Potential  
for Heavy Snow  
Sunday Night**

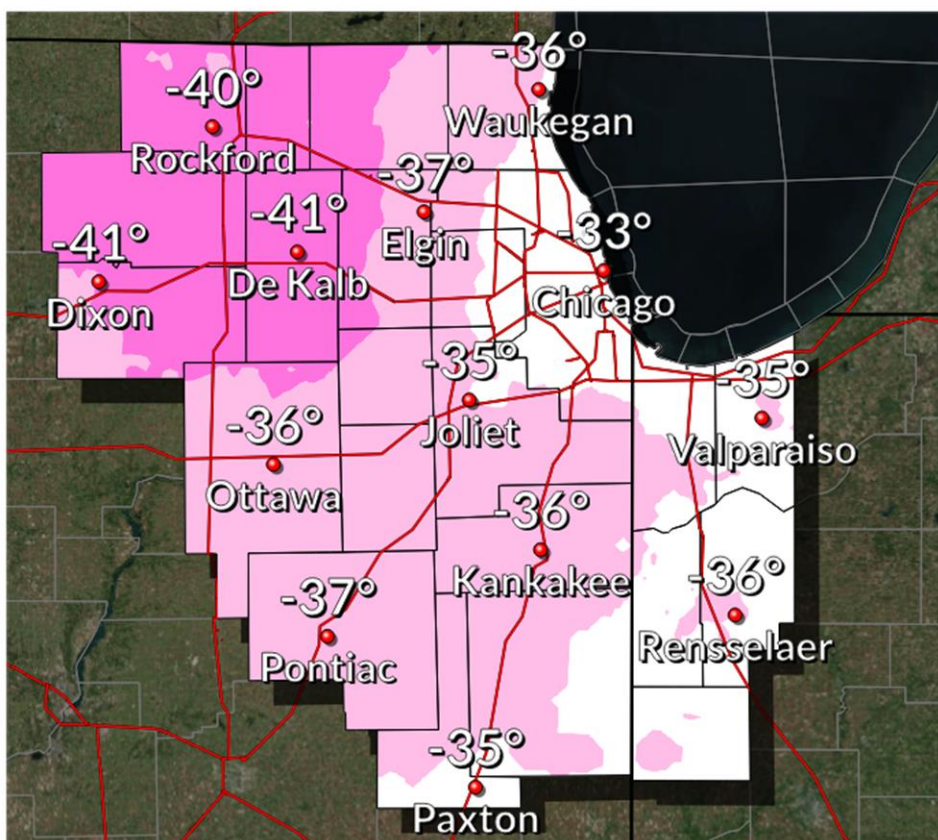


**Greatest Potential  
for Heavy Snow  
Monday**



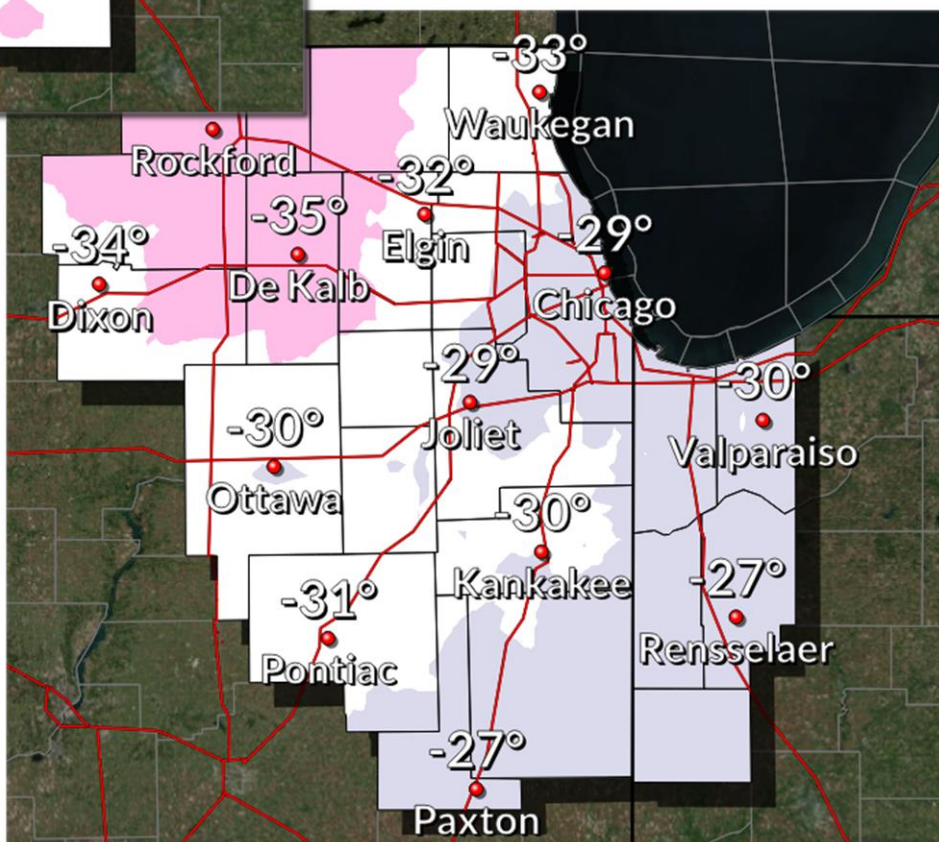
## Extreme & Possibly Life Threatening Cold

Tuesday Through Thursday



Tuesday Night &  
Wednesday Morning  
Min Wind Chill

Wednesday Night &  
Thursday Morning  
Min Wind Chill





## Cold Will Result in Elevated Risk for Ice Jams



### Increasing Risk for Ice Jams

- Extensive ice cover will continue to build up and thicken on area rivers, creeks, and streams due to prolonged very cold weather through next week.
- Ice jams occur where river flow is impeded by ice. Localized, rapid rises in water levels may occur with little or no notice.
- Residents in low lying flood prone areas should remain alert for possible flooding due to ice jams. Do not attempt to cross flooded roadways.
- Contact the NWS if you observe ice jam flooding.



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1/24/2019 11:43 AM Central



#### Ice Jam on the Rock River at Dixon, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>



Photo: Ed Pilar

Ice jam and reported flooding continues in and near Dixon, IL as of January 24<sup>th</sup>.

For latest river flood warnings and statements, go to: [water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lot](https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lot)



## Cold Weather Preparedness

### **CAR PREP:**

- Check your battery
- Check your coolant
- Check your tires
- Have jumper cables
- Pack a blanket



### **HOME PREP:**

- Check your furnace
- Check chimneys
- Check your carbon-monoxide detector
- Insulate exposed pipes



### **ANIMAL / PET PREP:**

- Brings pets inside
- Provide shelter and fresh water
- Keep salt away from paws



### **OUTDOORS:**

- Dress for the conditions
- Limit your time
- Check on others
- Watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia



[WEATHER.GOV/CHICAGO](https://www.weather.gov/chicago)



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## Building a Weather-Ready Nation

