



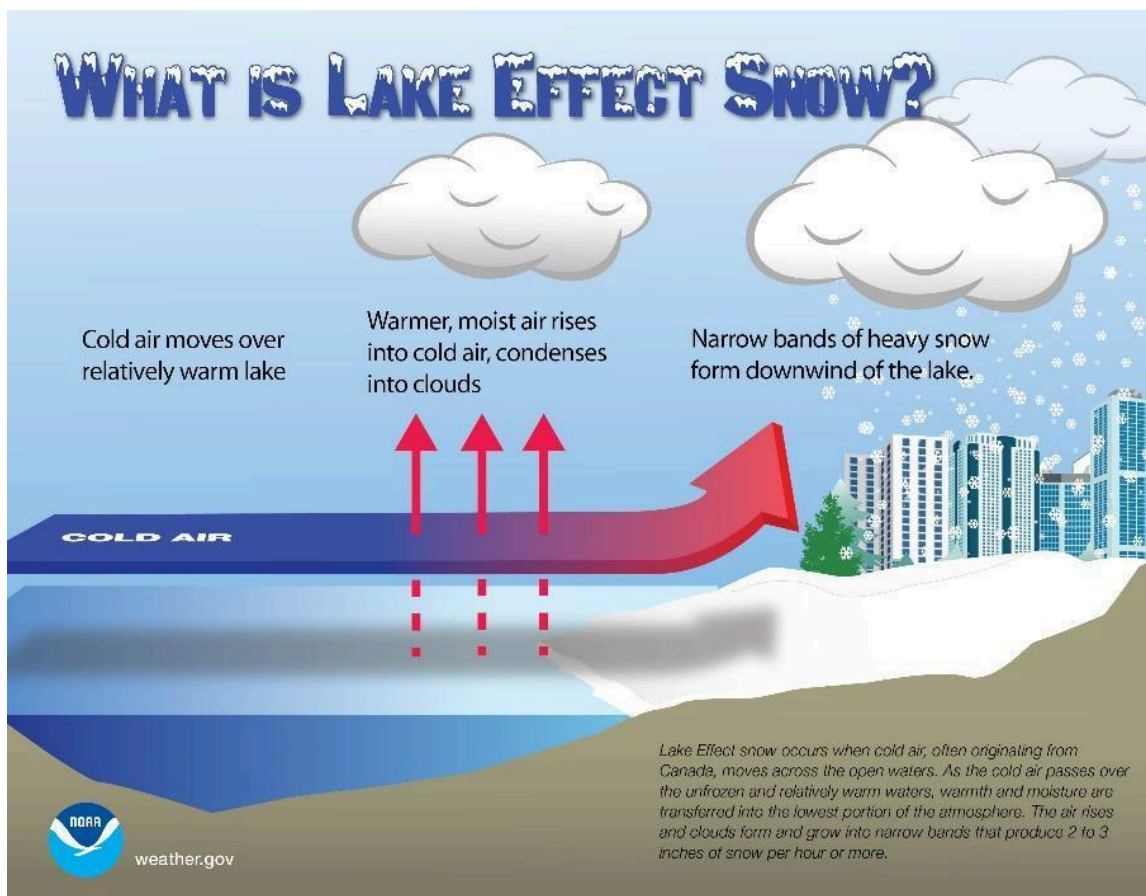
# National Weather Service

## Definitions for WINTER WEATHER

**WINTER STORM WATCH:** Issued when severe winter conditions are **possible** (heavy snow; snow, sleet and/or freezing rain; lake effect snow and/or potential blizzard. Used when the risk of hazardous weather has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location and timing is still uncertain.

**WINTER STORM WARNING:** severe winter conditions **expected**. Snow and/or sleet accumulations of 7+ **inches**. A warning may still be warranted if a storm is expected to exceed advisory level criteria, but fall short of warning level criteria if significant impacts to transit and/or utilities are expected.

**LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING:** issued when widespread or localized lake induced snow squalls or heavy showers are **expected** to produce significant snowfall accumulation. Lake effect snow usually develops in narrow bands and impacts a limited area. These bands can produce very heavy snow with sudden restrictions in visibility creating hazardous driving conditions.



**ICE STORM WARNING:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ " + of ice accretion is expected.



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**BLIZZARD WARNING:** Issued when heavy snow is forecast for 3 hours or more and when sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 mph are also expected combining to produce blinding snow (visibility near zero / whiteouts) and deep snow drifts.



**WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY:** snow, sleet and/or freezing rain **expected** to cause significant inconvenience and may be hazardous especially on untreated surfaces.

- **Snow and/or sleet accumulations**
  - **4-6 inches:** eastern New York and southern Vermont
  - **3-5 inches:** Berkshires and Litchfield County
- **Freezing Rain and/or Freezing Drizzle:** any accumulation of ice.

**SNOW SQUALL WARNING:** Issued to provide advance notice of intense, but limited duration, periods of moderate to heavy snowfall, accompanied by gusty winds resulting in reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions.





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