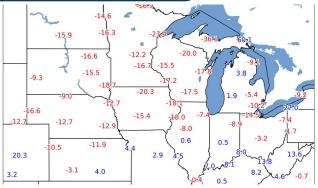
WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Introducing Flood Inundation Mapping
- 2025 Spotter Training Schedule

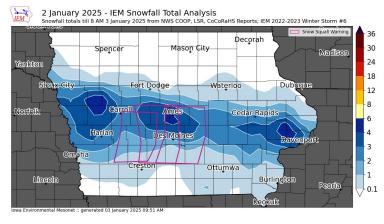
January Snowfall Review

Kristy Carter, Meteorologist

The state of Iowa and much of the Upper Midwest is well below normal for seasonal snowfall in 2024-2025 while areas winter further south are above normal after multiple systems have brought snow around and south of the I-70 corridor. Some locations in Iowa have seen 2" or less on the season. while many locations in central Iowa are closer to 3-5". The bulk of snow that fell across central Iowa came early in the month when an intense snow band/snow squall passed through the area on January 2nd. The snow squall quickly dropped visibilities prompting several snow squall warnings to be issued, including portions of I-80 & I-35. See more images from this event here.



Above: Regional seasonal snowfall departure (inches) through January 30, 2025. **Below:** January 2, 2025 snow totals through central Iowa which ranged from 2-4", locally 5", with the Snow Squall Warnings issued overlaid in purple. *Graphics courtesy of Iowa Environmental Mesonet. Click images to view larger.*



Coming in 2025 - Flood Inundation Mapping

Andrew Ansorge, Lead Meteorologist

Our hydrologic services will see a major enhancement in 2025. Later this fall, we will activate flood inundation mapping across Iowa. As the name implies, it is showing where flood waters will flood, or inundate, on a map.

Right now if we expect river flooding to occur, we would issue a flood warning using text to describe the area flooded, observed and forecast information, and what floods at various river levels. A warning polygon highlighting the general area of the flooding would also show on a map on our



Example of flood inundation mapping over a portion of Estherville, IA, which shows the peak flood inundation from the June 2024 flooding. *Click image to view larger.*

webpage. With flood inundation mapping, we will be able to show what areas will flood and "put water on the map" based on the river forecast. All of this current and future information is and will be available on our National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) website.



Andrew Ansorge (left) presents a mock briefing of flood inundation mapping during a training exercise in November 2024. Photo credit: Jeff Zogg. Click image to view larger.

In November of 2024, two of our staff attended Flood Inundation Mapping training at the National Water Center on the campus of the University of Alabama. This training reinforced core concepts from the virtual training, gave them hands-on experience using flood inundation mapping through training exercises, and allowed them to interact and ask questions of the developers. We look forward to sharing more about flood inundation mapping in the coming months!

2025 Spotter Training

It is almost that time of year again - spotter training season! These classes are FREE to attend and hosted in conjunction with local county Emergency Managers. All talks are open to the public on a first come, first serve basis. See the schedule below and go to our DMX Storm Spotter webpage for further details. We hope to see you there!



FEBRUARY

- 4 Greene
- 5 Algona
- 11 Leon
- 12 Corydon
- 13 Garwin
- 25 Des Moines #1
- 26 Winterset

MARCH

- 3 Newton
- 4 Mason City
- 5 Denison
- 6 Carroll
- 10 Ottumwa
- 11 Atlantic
- 12 Lenox
- 18 Marshalltown
- 25 Des Moines #2

APRIL

- 1 Sac City
- 8 Bremer County
- 10 Estherville

Review link below for start time.



weather.gov/desmoines/stormspotting



On the Cover:

A Horizontal Convective Roll (or HCR) viewed from Principal Park in Des Moines on the morning of January 19, 2025. These bands are extremely narrow and shallow, usually resulting in a brief burst of snow. Photo via WHO TV Principal Park webcam.

