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Service Change Notice 20-80 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
910 AM EST Fri Feb 14 2025

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Stephen Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Enhancements to the Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI):
Effective on or around March 17, 2025

Updated to add enhancements to the WSSI as detailed in the next paragraph.

Effective on or around March 17, 2025, the operational web-based Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) will implement the following enhancements:

- Both the Snow Amount and Ice Accumulation algorithms for each day now include the preceding 12-hour accumulations.
- The snow rate algorithm has been removed from the Snow Amount component.
- The tree type and land cover datasets have been updated.
- The Snow Load algorithms now account for pre-existing snow totals.
- The Blowing Snow and Ground Blizzard algorithms now account for duration-based impacts. In addition, the Ground Blizzard algorithms are updated for greater consistency with Blowing Snow.
- A wind factor is now included in both the Snow Load and Ice Accumulation algorithms.
- Population density and average traffic count data are included in the algorithms for Snow Amount and Ice Accumulation.

The purpose of the WSSI is to provide NWS forecasters, partners, and the public with an indication of the severity of winter weather hazards and resulting societal impacts. The WSSI does not depict official warnings, and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts and warnings.

The WSSI will continue to be updated every two hours at approximately 0100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 0300 UTC, 0500 UTC, etc. No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

Additional information is provided in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/5db27583876f5a544b0fa8a60cbb3576

For questions regarding the WSSI, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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