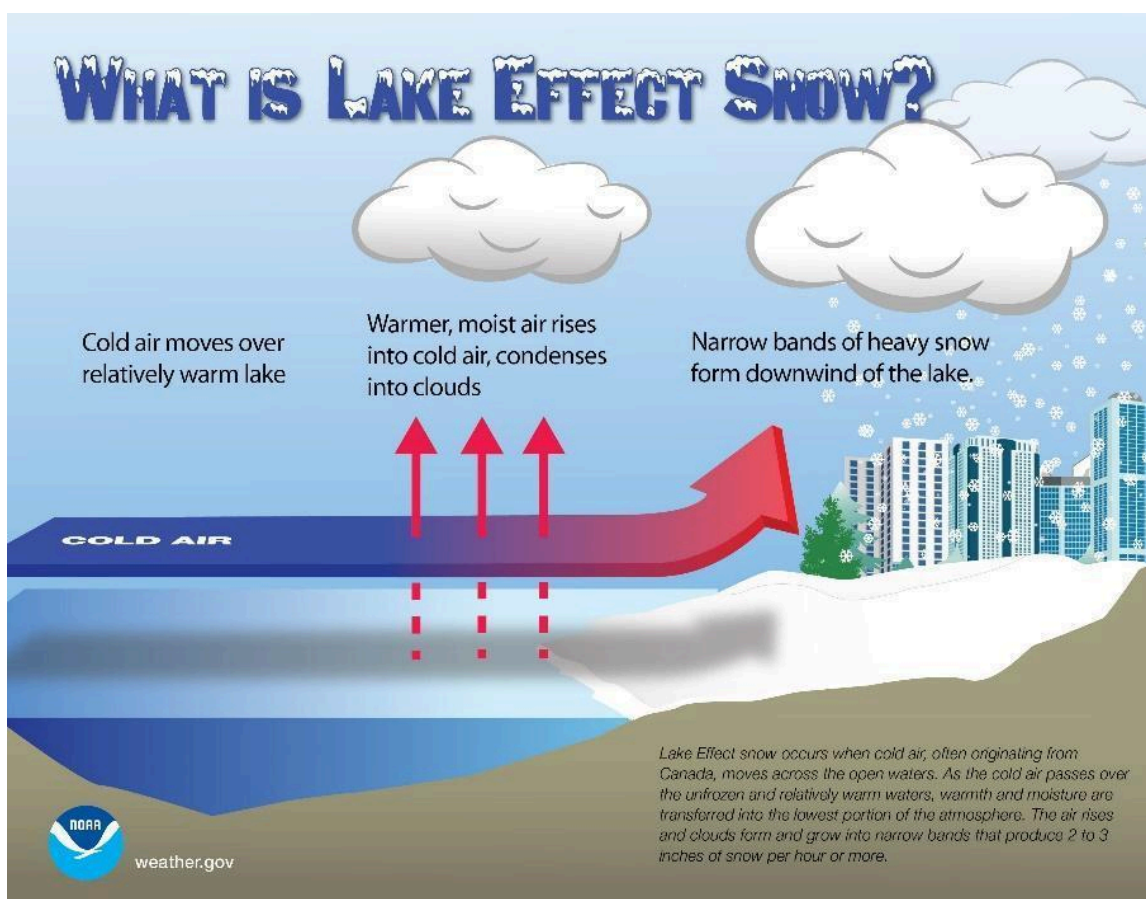# National Weather Service
Definitions for WINTER WEATHER

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: ½"+ 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 <u>inconvenience</u> 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. Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) is issued when a "Significant" tag is used for when snow squalls pose a substantial threat to safe travel.

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Definitions for WINTER WEATHER

Winter Precipitation

SNOW — Snowflakes never melt.

SLEET — Droplets freeze and form ice *before* reaching the surface.

FREEZING RAIN — Rain freezes *on contact* with the surface.

RAIN — Rain never refreezes.

At or Below 32°F   Above 32°F   weather.gov