

Winter Storm Severity Index

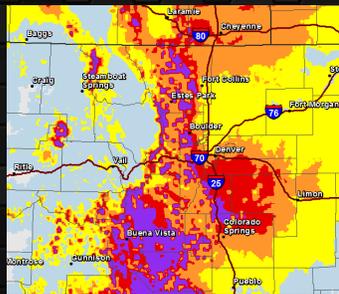
The Winter Storm Severity Index, or WSSI, is a new tool from the National Weather Service that forecasts the potential impacts of winter storms throughout the continental United States.

The WSSI can keep you informed on potential winter storm impacts in your community, including tree damage, property damage, transportation impacts, and disruptions to daily life.



POTENTIAL IMPACTS SCALE

- **No Impacts**
- **Limited Impacts**
- **Minor Impacts**
- **Moderate Impacts**
- **Major Impacts**
- **Extreme Impacts**



The WSSI is designed to help you prepare before the storm. Expected winter storms are given an 'impact ranking' in 6 categories, ranging from 'No Impacts' to 'Extreme Impacts'.

The WSSI impact scale will help you quickly and easily know what to expect from a winter storm.



The WSSI is measured by analyzing the potential impacts of:

- **Snow amount:** impacts due to the total amount of snow or the accumulation rate.
- **Snow load:** infrastructure impacts due to the weight of the snow.
- **Ice accumulation:** infrastructure impacts due to the effects and severity of ice and wind.
- **Flash freeze:** potential for quick-forming ice from rapid temperature drops during or after precipitation.
- **Blowing snow:** disruption due to blowing and drifting snow.
- **Ground blizzards:** travel-related impacts of strong winds interacting with pre-existing snow.

The WSSI allows the user to make informed decisions based on the potential for significant weather-related impacts.