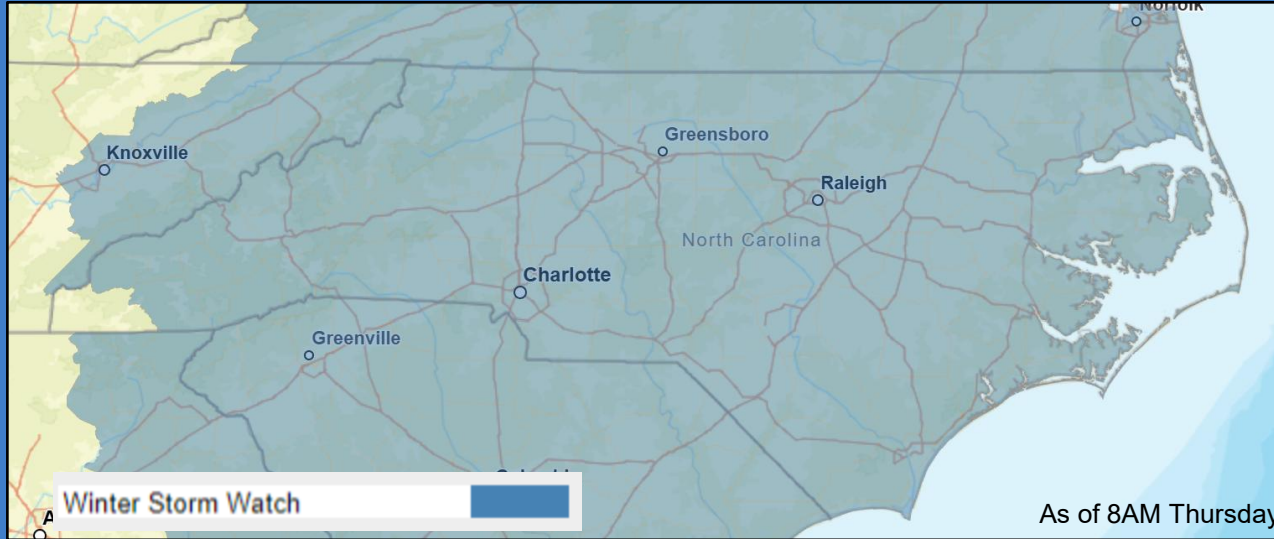




Winter Storm Watch



- A Winter Storm Watch will be in effect across NC, where heavy snow and locally significant snowfall are forecast Friday afternoon (or early overnight across the east) through Sunday afternoon.
- Gusty winds throughout the event may lead to reduced visibility from blowing snow and blizzard-like conditions in portions of the state.



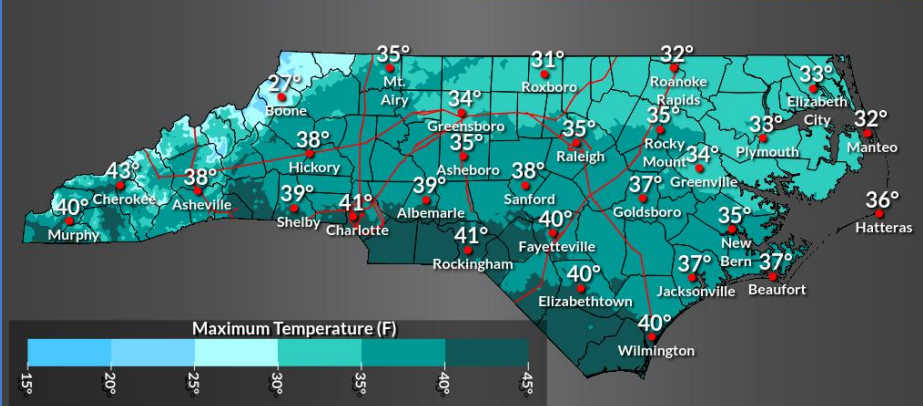
Thursday's High & Low Temperature Forecast

Max Temperature Forecast

Valid Thursday Jan 29, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:06 AM EST



YouTube, Facebook, and X: @NWSRaleigh

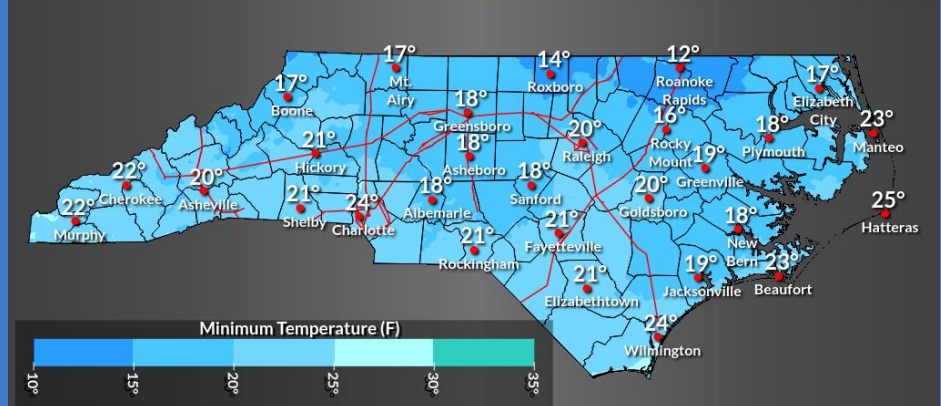
weather.gov/raleigh

Min Temperature Forecast

Valid Friday Jan 30, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:07 AM EST



YouTube, Facebook, and X: @NWSRaleigh

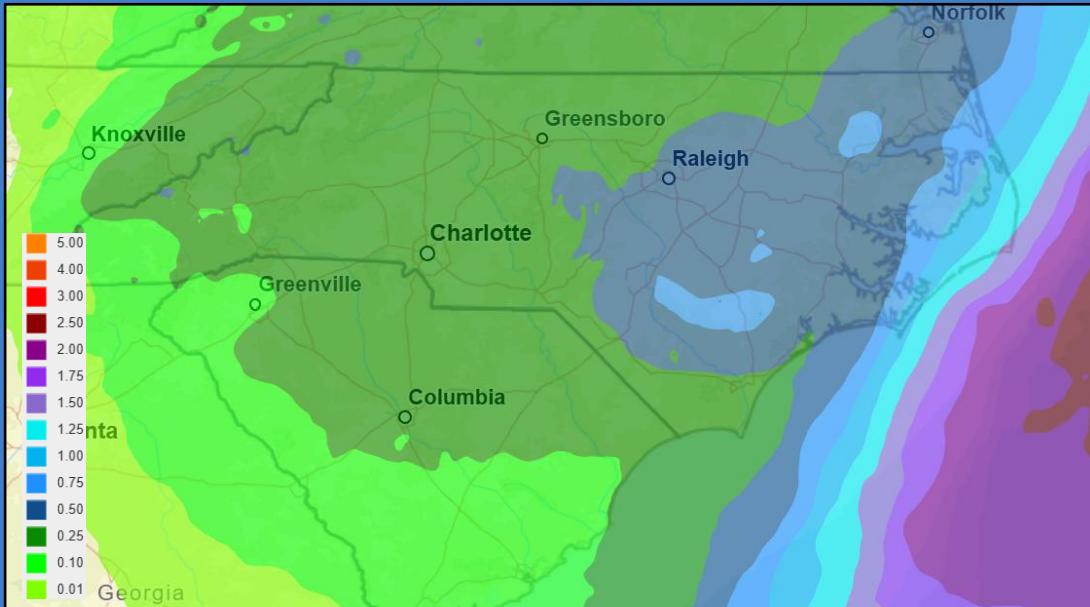
weather.gov/raleigh

- Highs will rise into the 30s and 40s for much of NC today where additional melting is expected. Lows will fall into the teens and 20s tonight where any moisture remaining on roadways will refreeze. Maintain caution if driving tonight into Friday morning as hazardous conditions are possible, especially where the heaviest wintry precipitation fell this past weekend.



5-Day Rainfall Forecast

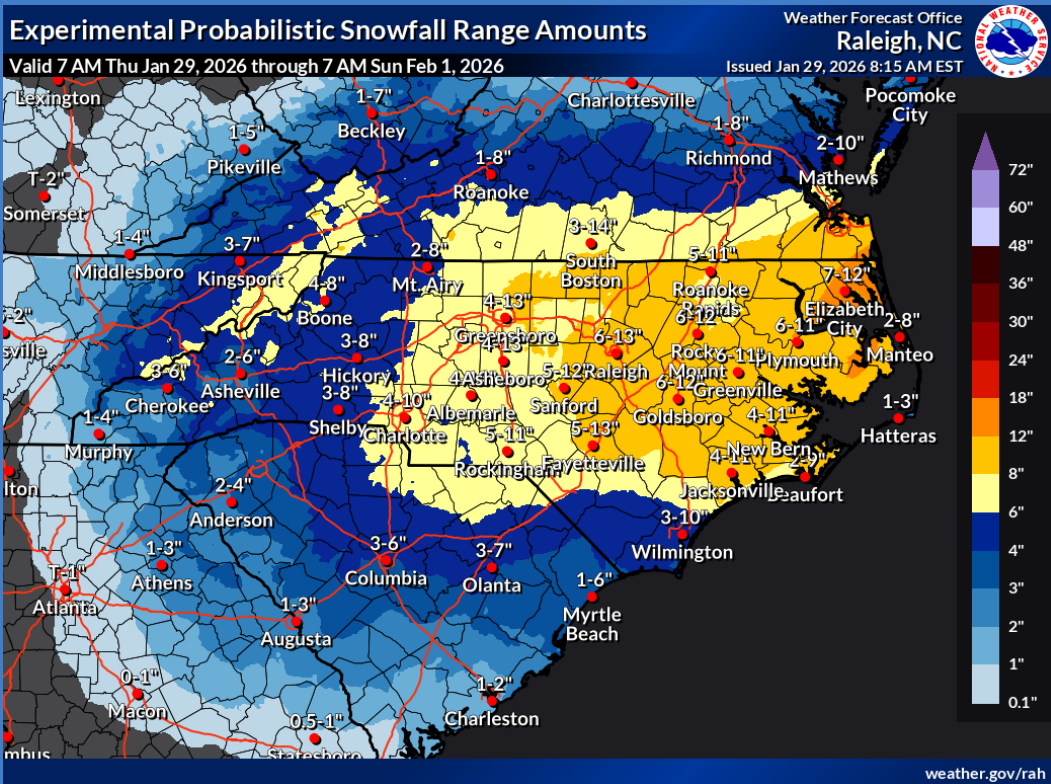
7AM Thursday, January 29, 2026 - 7AM Tuesday, February 3, 2026



- Chances of an impactful winter weather event continue to increase late Friday into Sunday morning as low pressure forms off the SE U.S. coast.
- This system has the potential to bring significant snow accumulations, blowing and drifting snow due to strong winds, and coastal flooding.
- Considerable uncertainty remains in the total precipitation accumulations. Continue to monitor forecast updates from trusted sources as the forecast continues to be refined.



Late Friday – Sunday Snowfall Forecast



- Peak snow accumulations are forecast across NC Friday night through Sunday afternoon with the greatest snow accumulations forecast across eastern NC.
- While high uncertainty remains with forecast snowfall amounts, an axis of significant accumulation is possible, especially where the heaviest band of precipitation sets up.



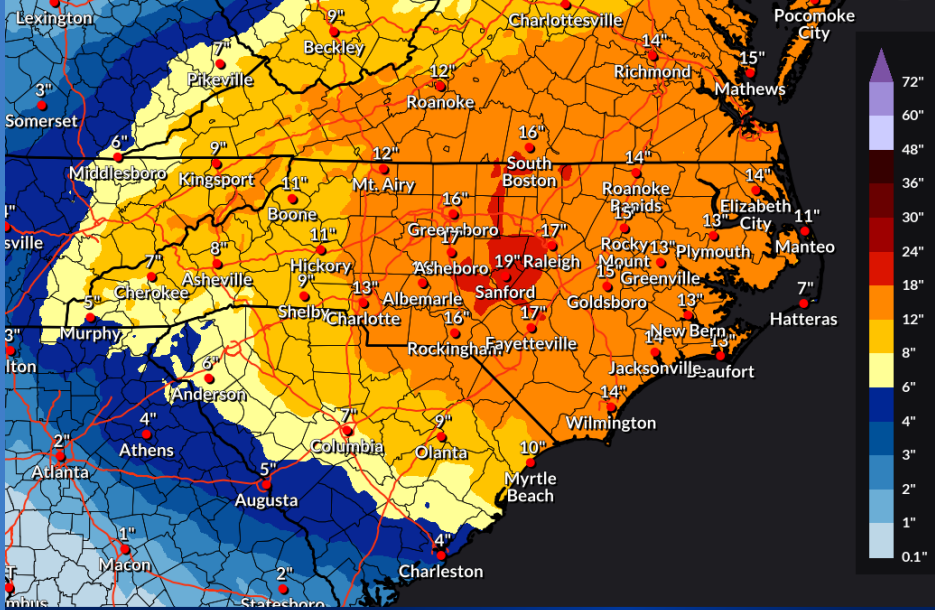
High End & Low End Snowfall Forecast

High End Amount: 1 in 10 Chance (10%) of Higher Snowfall

Valid 7 AM Thu Jan 29, 2026 through 7 AM Sun Feb 1, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:17 AM EST



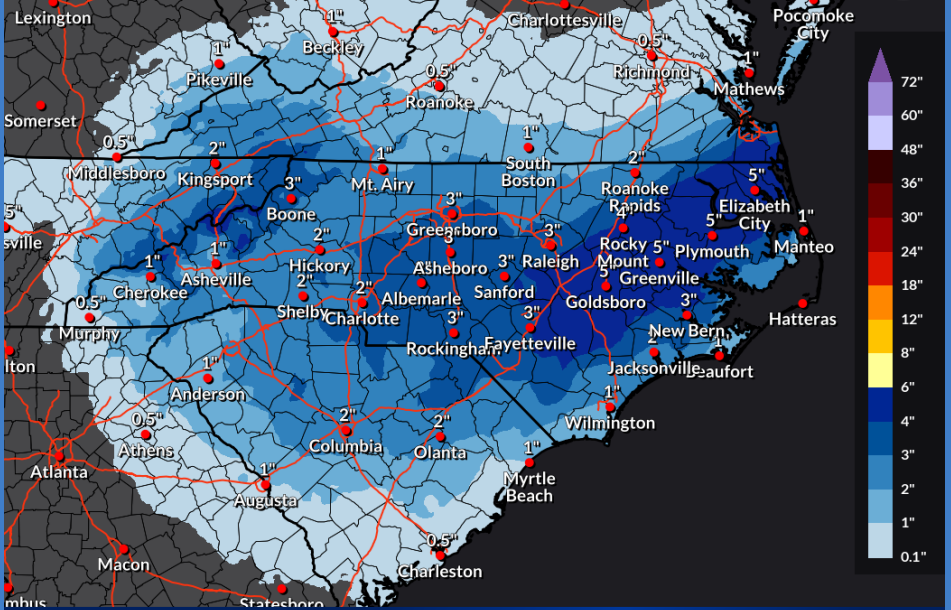
weather.gov/rah

Low End Amount: 9 in 10 Chance (90%) of Higher Snowfall

Valid 7 AM Thu Jan 29, 2026 through 7 AM Sun Feb 1, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:18 AM EST

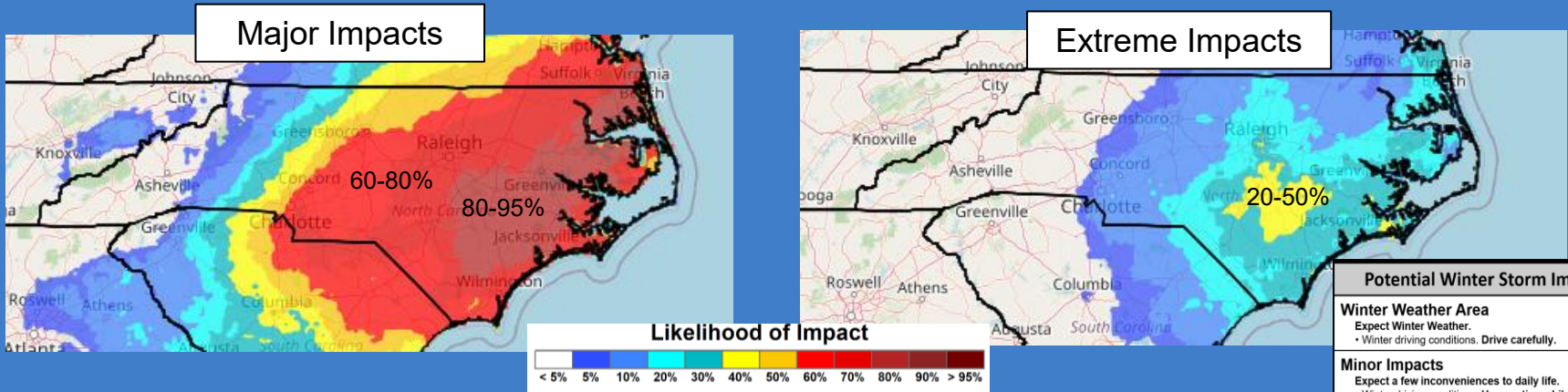


weather.gov/rah



Winter Storm Severity Index Probabilities

1PM Sunday February 1, 2026



Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
Winter Weather Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect Winter Weather. Winter driving conditions. Drive carefully.
Minor Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect a few inconveniences to daily life. Winter driving conditions. Use caution while driving.
Moderate Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect disruptions to daily life. Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
Major Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect considerable disruptions to daily life. Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Avoid travel if possible. Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
Extreme Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect substantial disruptions to daily life. Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Travel is not advised. Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. Life-saving actions may be needed.

- The likelihood of major impacts from a potential winter storm over the weekend is increasing, with a 60-80% chance in central NC and 80-95% chance in eastern NC. The potential for extreme impacts have also increased with a 20-50% chance across the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.
- Continue to monitor the forecast from trusted sources as details continue to be refined in the coming days.



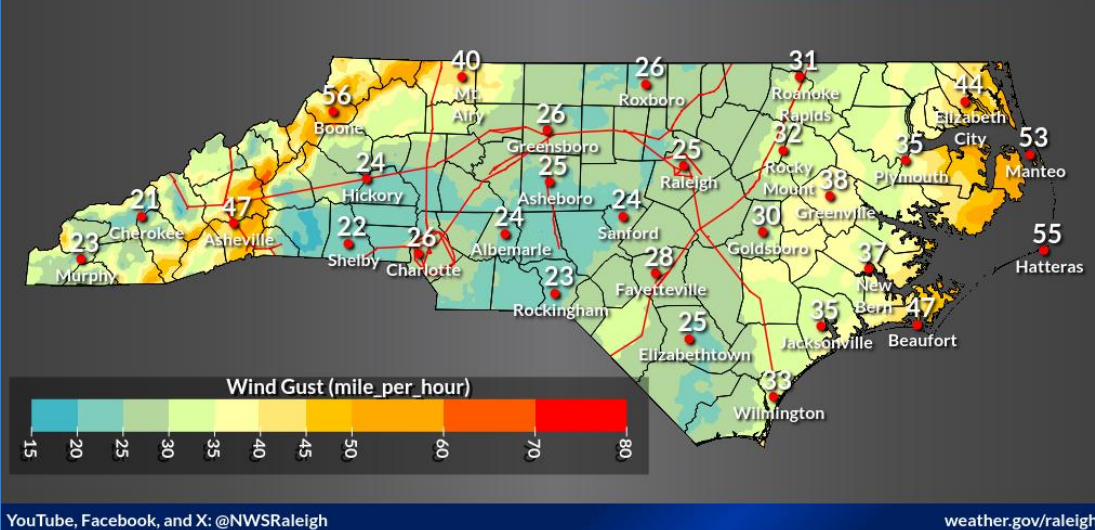
Saturday's Max Wind Gust Forecast

24-hour Max Wind Gust

Valid Saturday Jan 31, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:16 AM EST



Wind Gust (mile_per_hour)



- Winds will increase statewide Saturday as the coastal low nears the region with the strongest winds across the mountains and along the NC Coast.
- A High Wind Watch is in place for the Northern Outer Banks and Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands on Saturday where wind gusts between 50-65 mph are forecast.
- Strong winds will increase the threat for oceanside and soundside coastal flooding over the weekend.



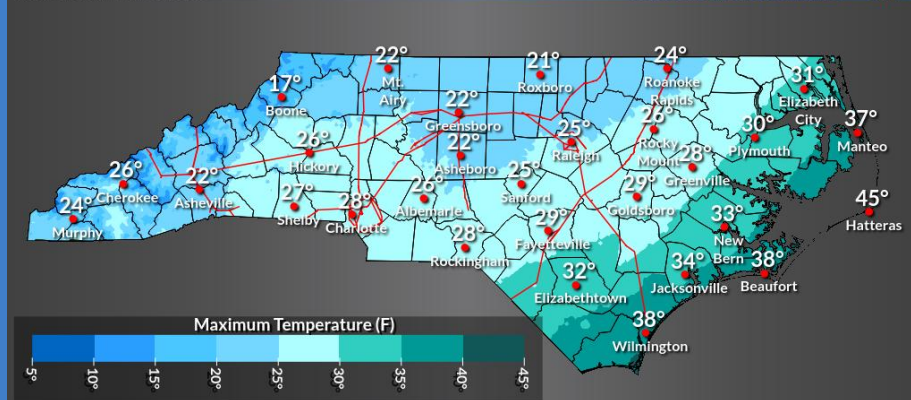
Saturday and Sunday's High Temperature Forecast

Max Temperature Forecast

Valid Saturday Jan 31, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:06 AM EST



YouTube, Facebook, and X: @NWSRaleigh

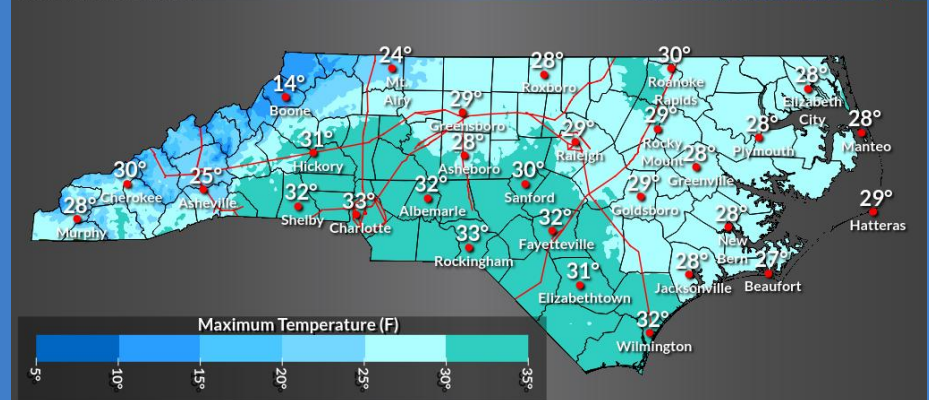
weather.gov/raleigh

Max Temperature Forecast

Valid Sunday Feb 01, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Raleigh, NC

Issued Jan 29, 2026 7:06 AM EST



YouTube, Facebook, and X: @NWSRaleigh

weather.gov/raleigh

- Highs will top out in the teens and 20s for much of NC Saturday with not much warming expected Sunday. Any precipitation that falls over the weekend will likely linger into early next week as lows fall below freezing each night.
- Dangerously cold wind chills are forecast Saturday and Sunday night with near record temperatures expected.



5 Things to Know about Winter Weather Forecasts



1

Snow or ice totals can vary greatly over short distances

A heavy snow band may form, dropping more snow in one location while significantly less snow falls just a few miles away.



2

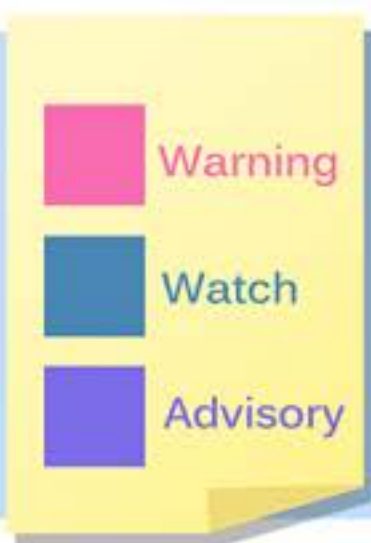
Winter forecasts can change frequently

Forecasts may change as new model data becomes available. Always check weather.gov for the latest information.

3

Focus more on the winter storm's impacts

Don't focus too much on exact numbers, and consider the full range of possibilities.



4

Know your winter weather terminology

If a Watch is issued, get prepared for hazardous weather. If a Warning or Advisory is issued, take action – hazardous weather is occurring or will occur soon.

5

Rely on a dependable source for weather info

Choose your information sources wisely, and follow a name or organization you know and trust.



For more information on winter weather safety, visit: weather.gov/winter

WINTER WEATHER HOME SAFETY TIPS



- Run generators outside **ONLY**. The fumes can be deadly.
- Stock up on heating fuel.
- Insulate water pipes.
- Leave faucet dripping to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Check smoke detectors.



North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council

www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE OFFICE

climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO

NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Jan. 27, 2026**

From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Despite some snow, sleet, and ice last weekend, Severe Drought (D2) expanded along the Tennessee border and remains across most of central and eastern NC.

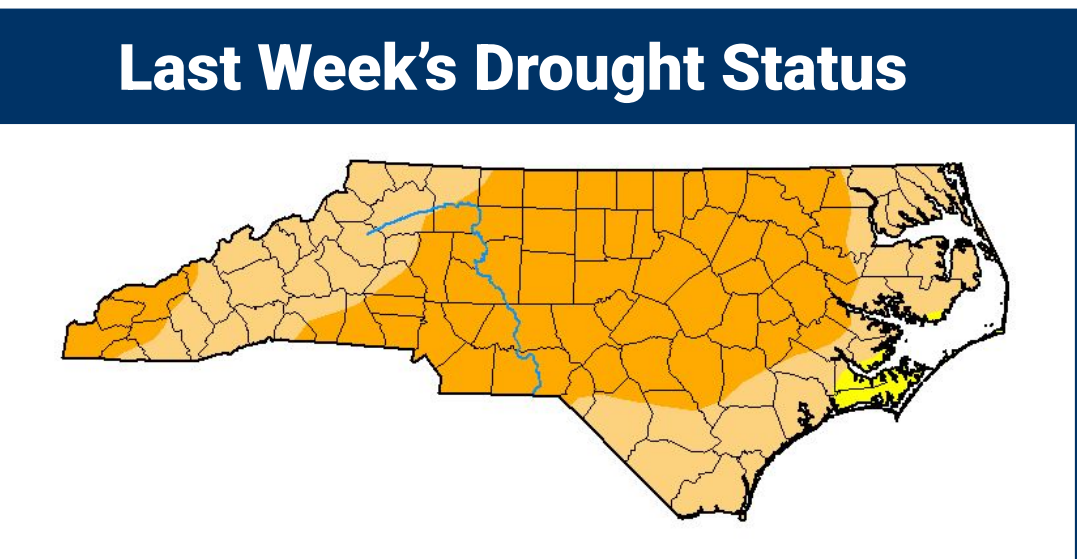
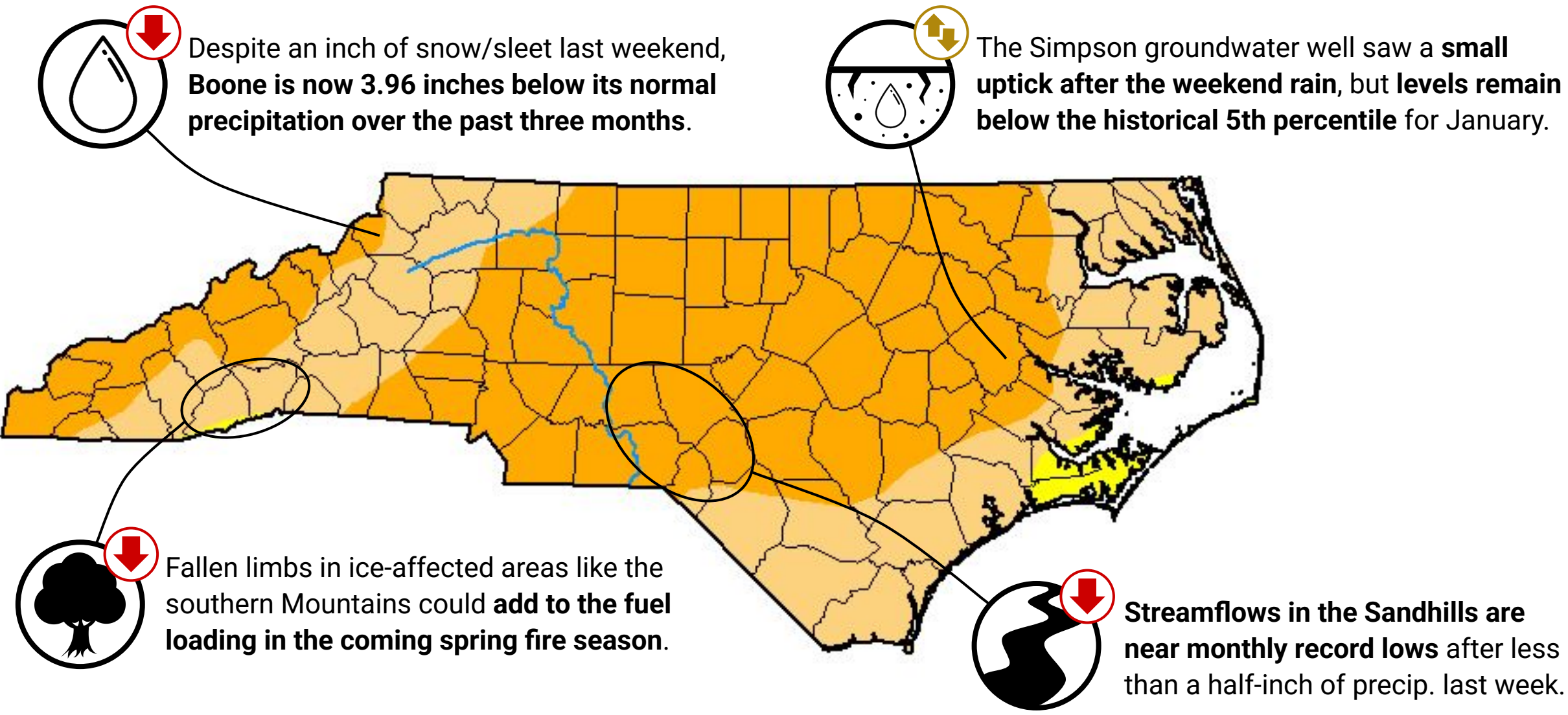
This Week's Summary

While we dodged the worst of the weekend ice storm, we also missed out on most of the moisture from that system, making it another drier-than-normal week for much of the state. The ongoing Severe Drought (D2) designation is driven largely by precipitation deficits dating back to the fall and very low streamflows for this time of year, when we usually expect more recharge.

Next Week's Outlook

With cold air locked in place, offshore low pressure will produce snow this weekend, generally ranging from 4 to 12 inches across the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	2.04%	+0.17%
D1: Moderate Drought	35.71%	-3.69%
D2: Severe Drought	62.25%	+3.52%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%