

Winter Storm Tonight and Thursday

National Weather Service
Decision Support Briefing # 5
Thursday, December 17, 2020 600 AM





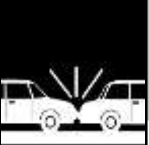
Winter Weather Related Hazards



What Has Changed?

- ✓ No Changes to Headlines
- ✓ Slightly lower snowfall totals across SE MA
- ✓ Slightly higher snowfall totals across northwest MA

Main Points

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
Heavy Snow 	Difficult travel; Localized 1-2"/hr. snowfall rates; Snow will stick to all surfaces immediately. Poor visibility at times.	Much of southern New England. Lesser intensity towards Cape Cod and the Islands.	Through this morning
Strong Winds 	Blowing/drifted snow, Minor wind damage and isolated power outages, especially RI & southeast MA.	Strongest gusts 30-40 mph eastern MA coast, except 40-55 mph over Cape/Islands	Today
Coastal Flood 	Minor nuisance flooding. Inundation of 1-2 feet of low-lying areas & vulnerable coastal roads.	Eastern MA coast including Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket	High tide early this afternoon
Marine 	Storm force wind gusts up to 50 knots across southern waters with Gale force wind gusts 40-45 knots elsewhere. Seas 12-17 feet.	MA and RI coastal waters	Today
Flash Freeze 	Slick roads due to rapidly falling temperatures. Any standing water or slush will freeze rapidly.	Mainly South Shore and into RI and southeast MA, possibly as far north as Boston	Today mid to late-morning.

Summary of Greatest Impacts



Heavy Snow: All of southern New England, esp along/south of Mass Pike

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Strong Winds: Coastal MA and RI

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Coastal Flood: Eastern MA including Cape Cod and the Islands

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Marine: MA and RI coastal waters

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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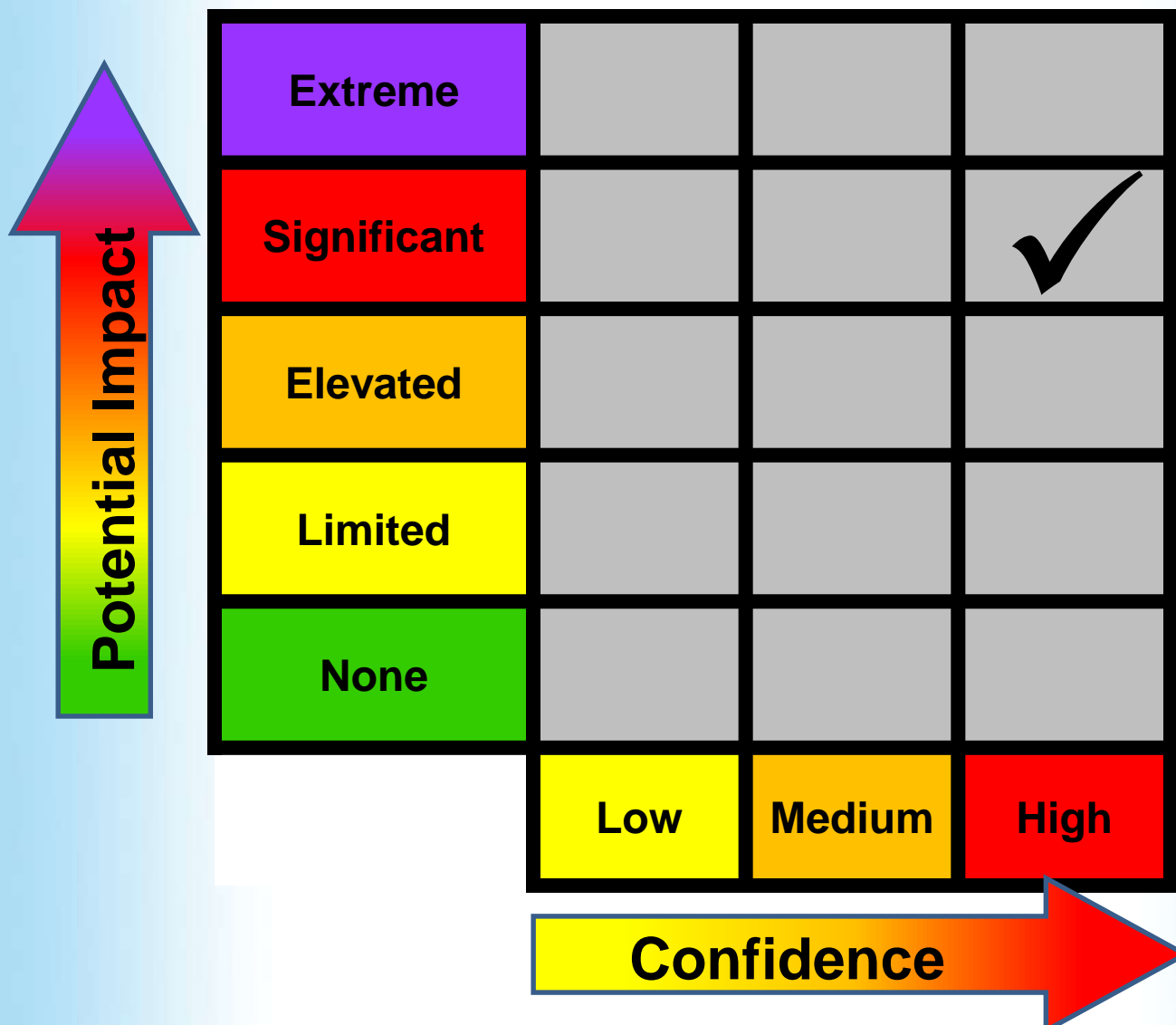


Flash Freeze: Southeast MA and South Shore

None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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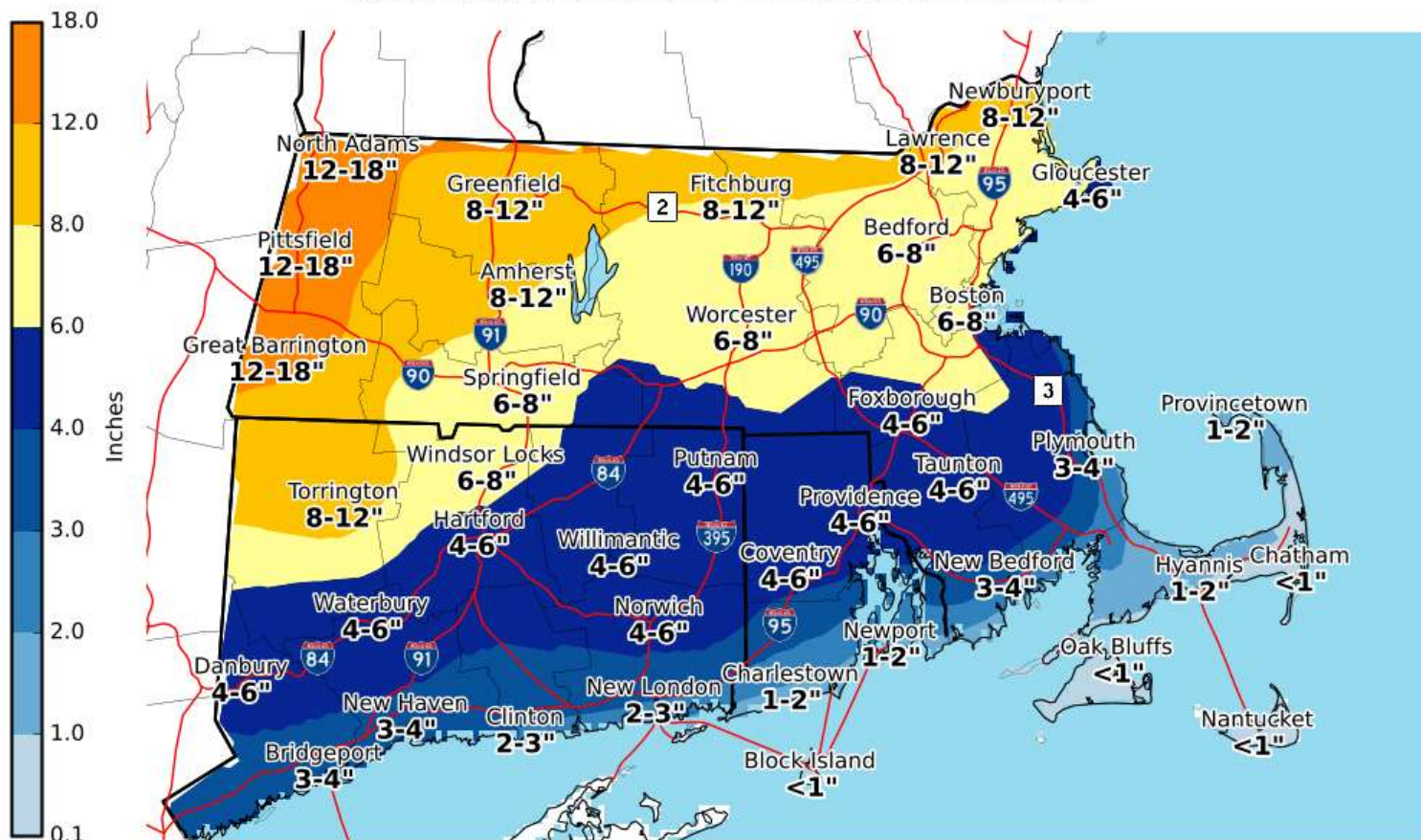
Winter Storm Threat and Confidence



Forecast Additional Snowfall

Expected Additional Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 12/17/2020 05:00 AM - 12/18/2020 01:00 AM EST



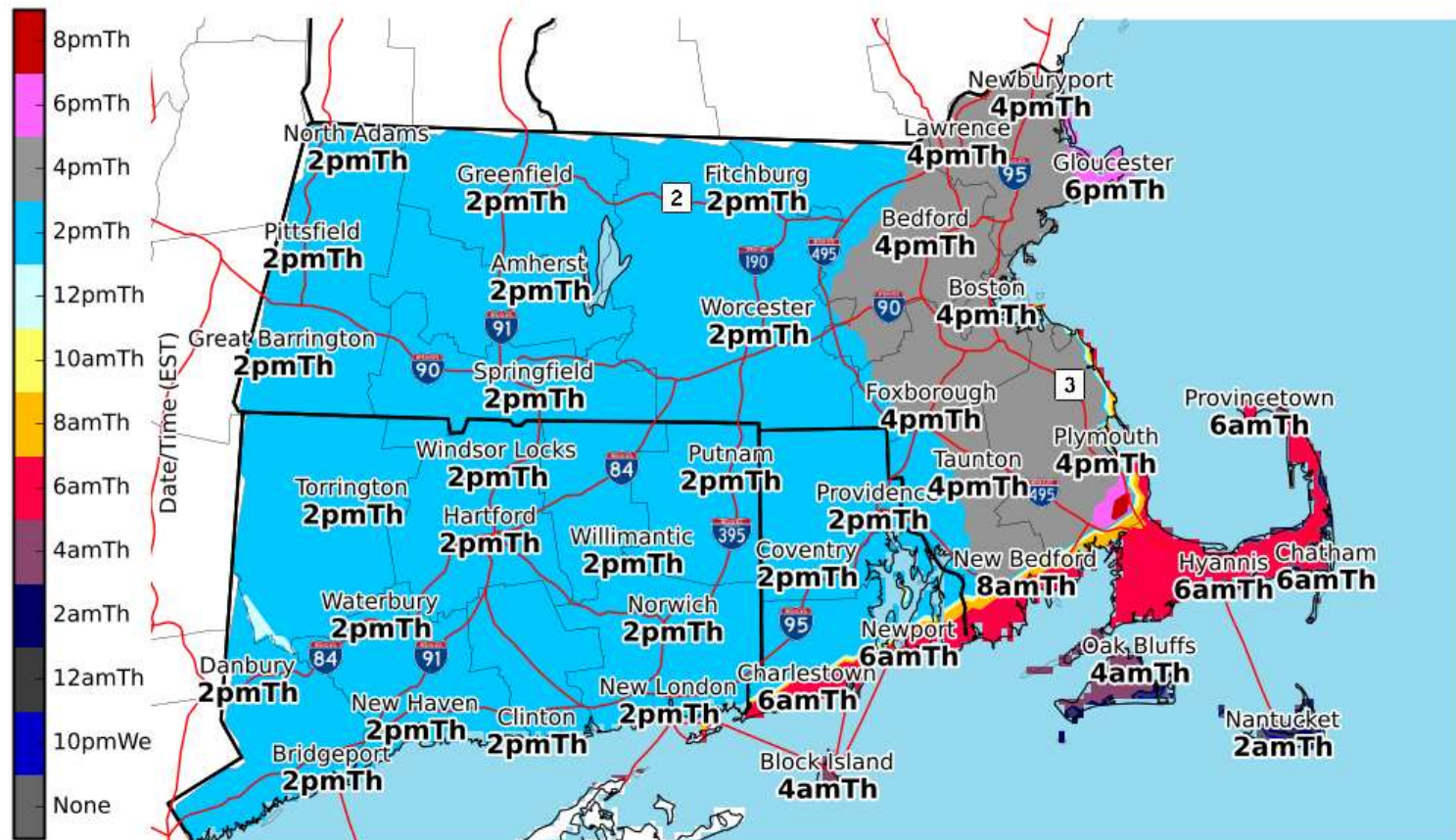
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End Time of Winter Weather Threats

Snow Ending Time

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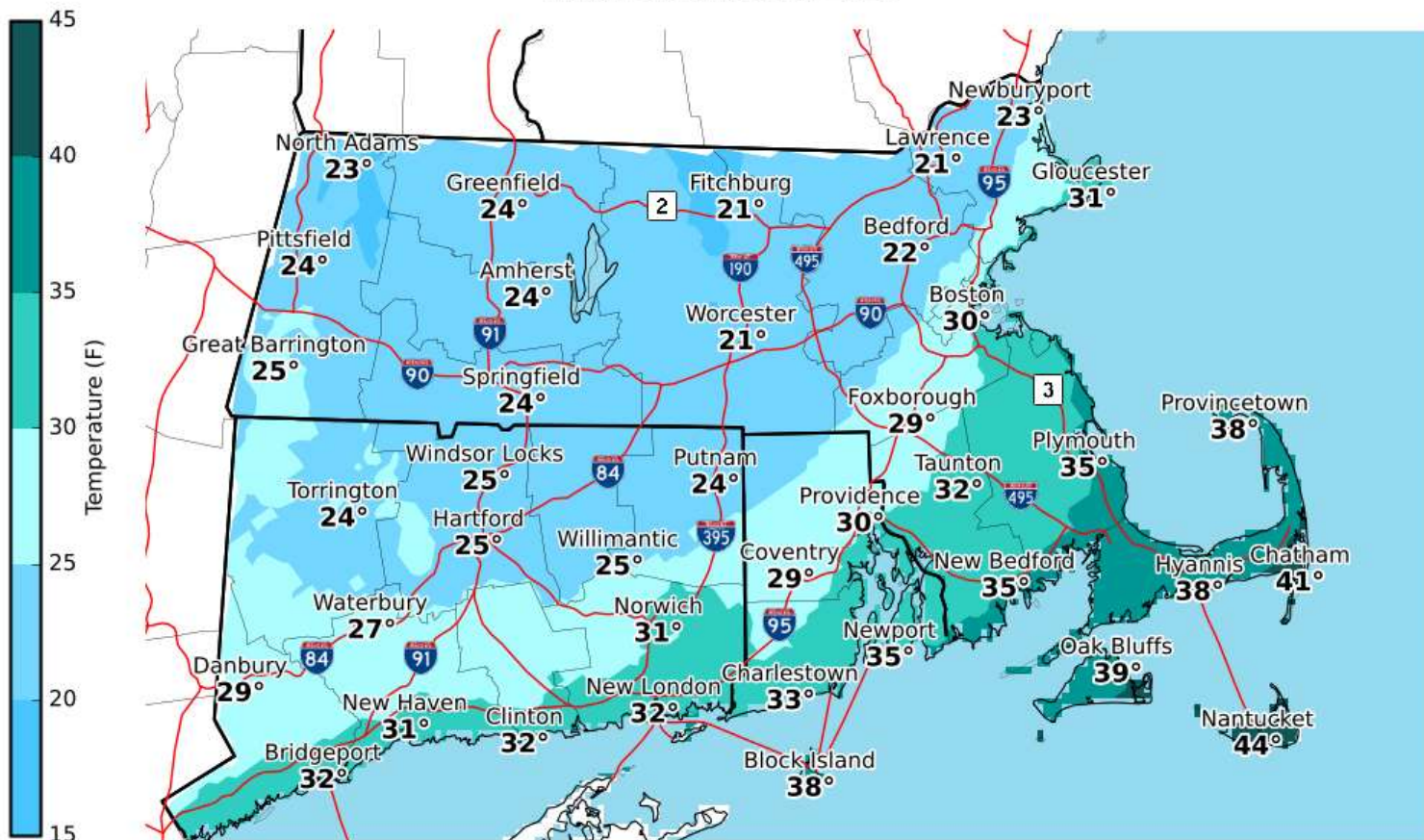


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Thursday High Temperatures

Afternoon Highs Valid: December 17, 2020



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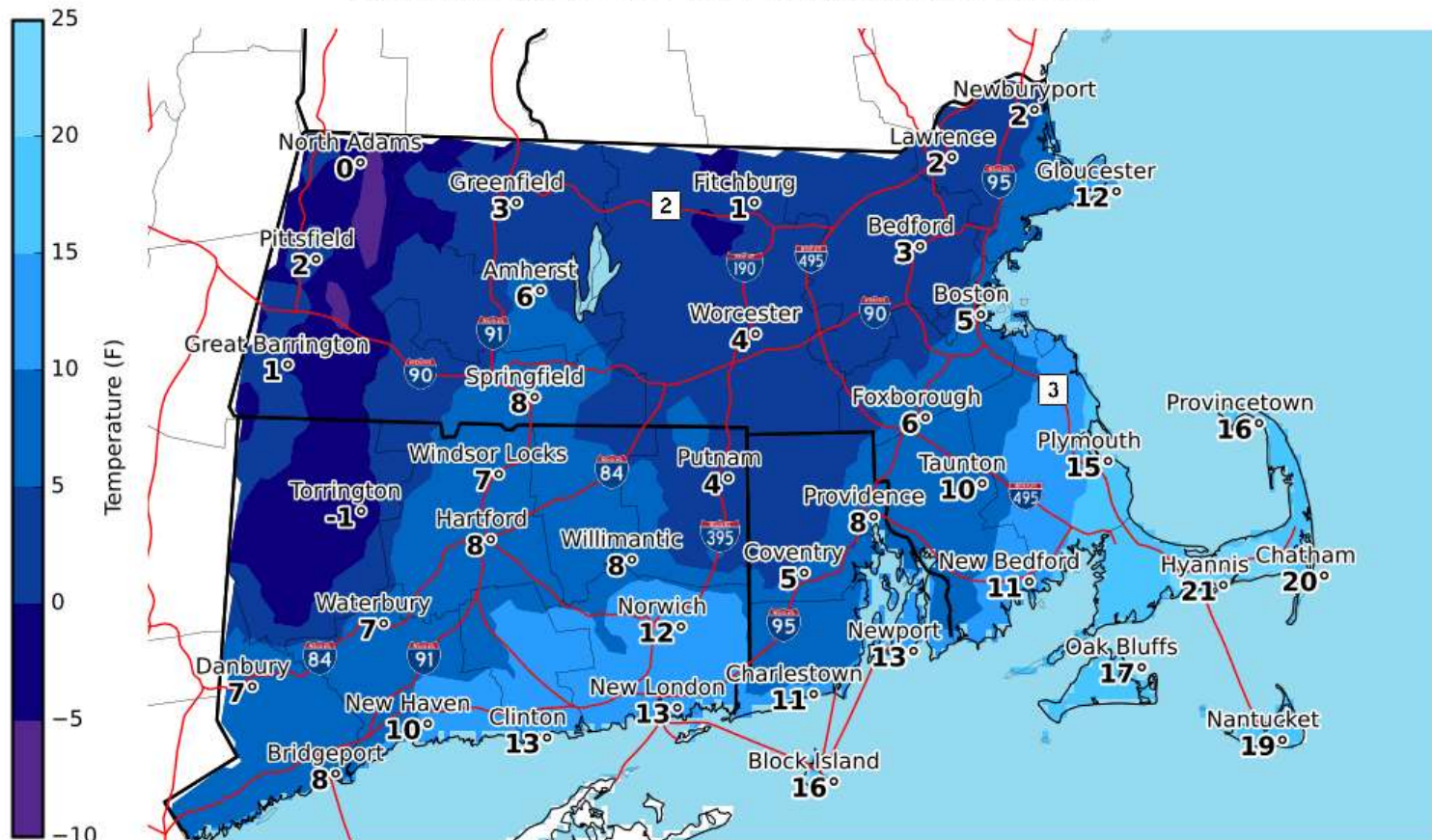
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Thursday Minimum Wind Chills

Min Apparent Temperature

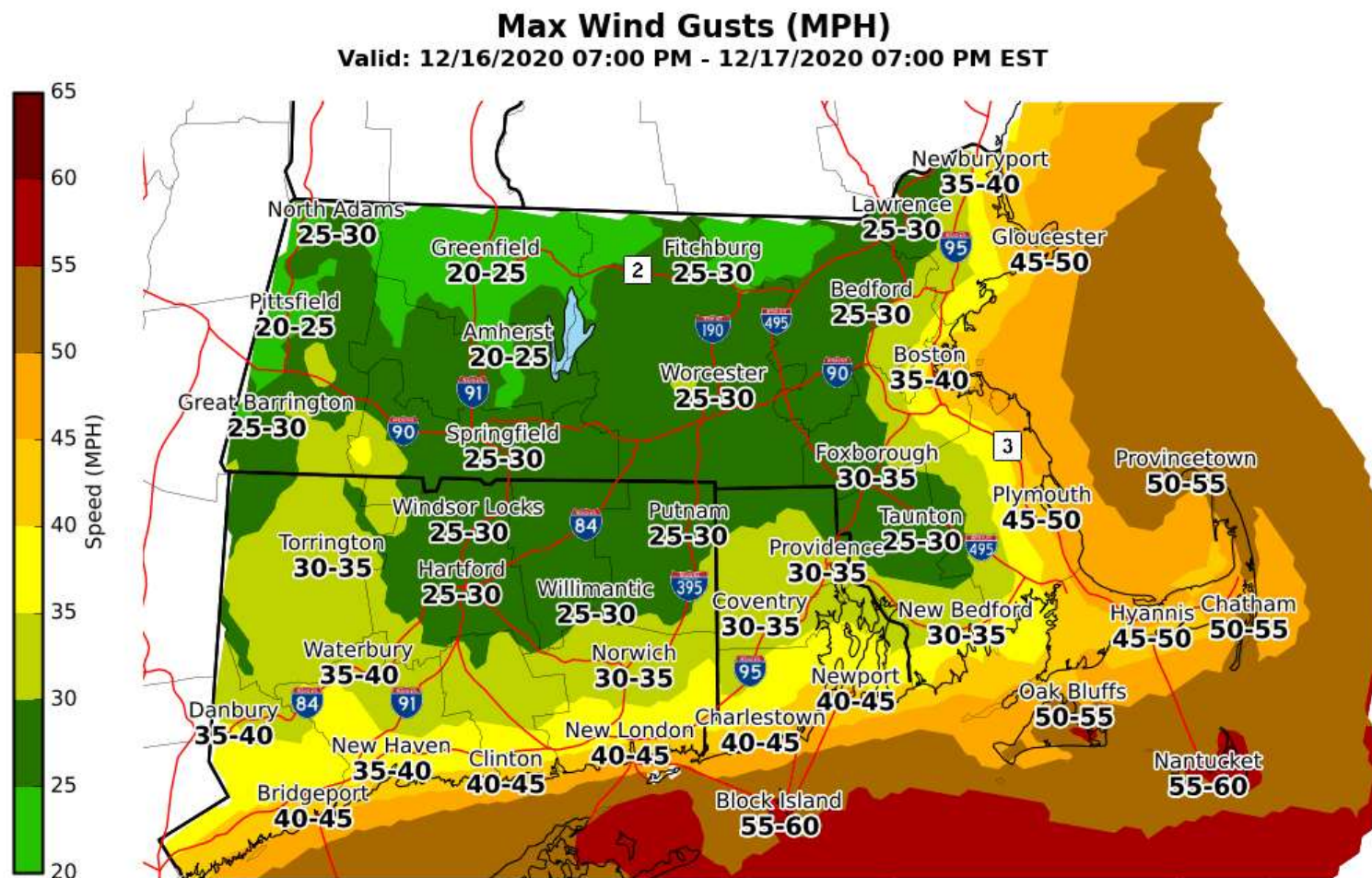
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Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts: Thursday



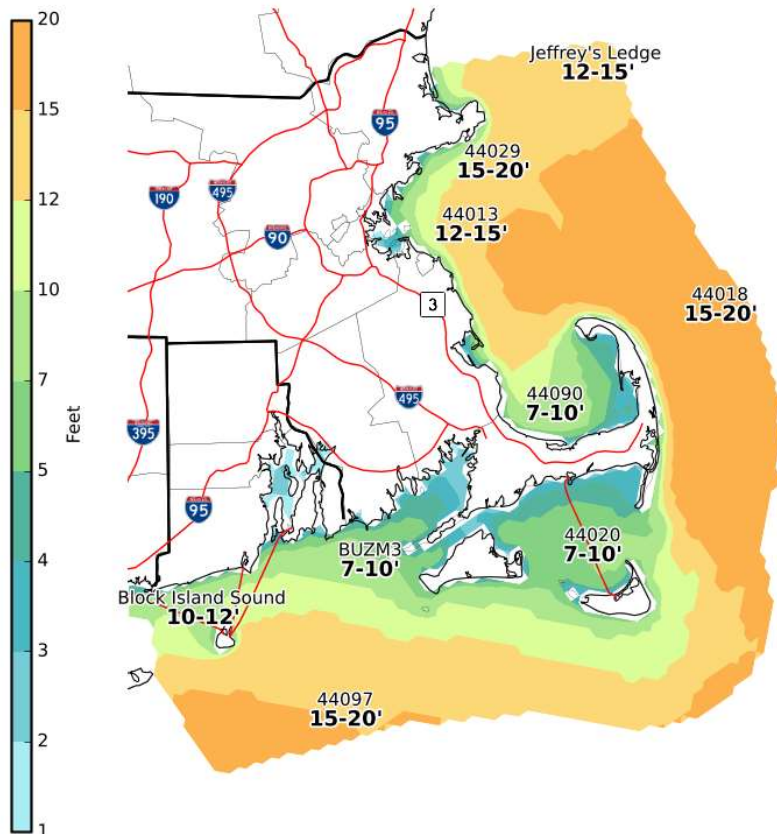
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Forecast Maximum Wave Heights and Wind Gusts (knots): Wed Night/Thu

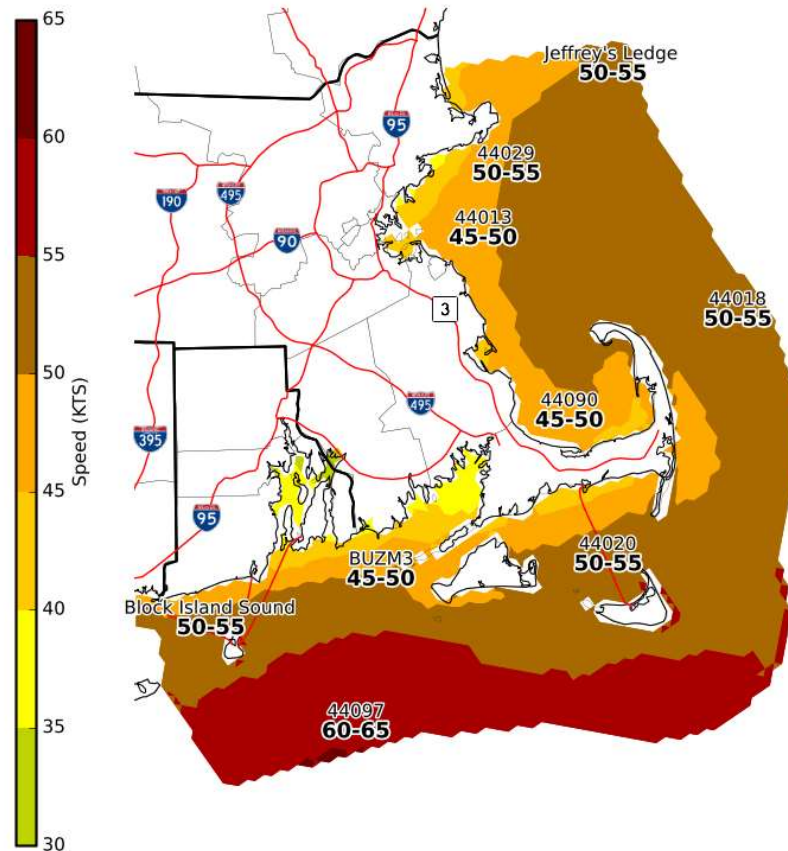
Maximum Wave Height

Valid: 12/16/2020 07:00 PM - 12/17/2020 07:00 PM EST



Max Wind Gusts (KTS)

Valid: 12/16/2020 07:00 PM - 12/17/2020 07:00 PM EST



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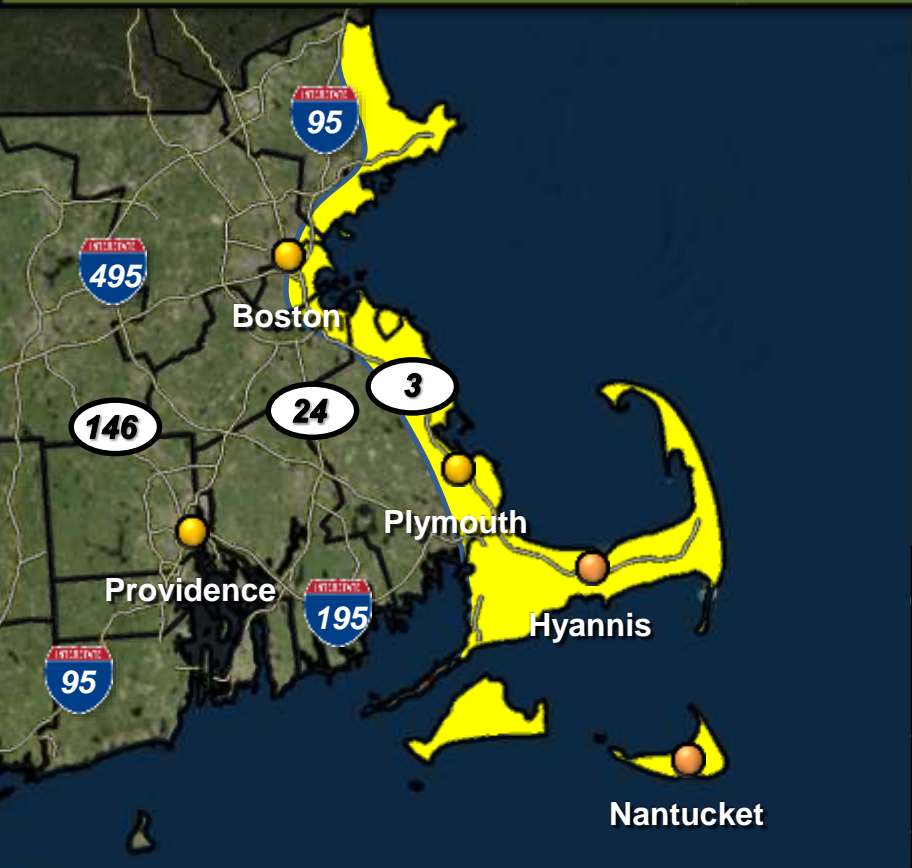
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Coastal Flooding – Coastal Flood Advisory Early Thursday Afternoon



Most Likely: Minor Coastal Flooding

- 1 to 2 feet of inundation, especially for low-lying areas and vulnerable shore roads.
- Minor beach erosion, especially more vulnerable spots, like Plum Island, MA.

Very Worst Case (unlikely): Low-end Moderate Coastal Flooding

- Would be more widespread flooding with some road closures and local inundation of 2 to 3 feet

Timing: High tide early Thursday afternoon.

None
Minor
Moderate
Major
Extreme

	Storm Surge Threat	Potential Impacts from Storm Surge
Little to None	0 to 1 feet above ground	No immediate preparations needed. Little to no potential storm surge flooding impacts
Elevated	1 to 3 feet above ground	Prepare for minor flooding impacts
Moderate	3 to 6 feet above ground	Prepare for widespread flooding with more significant impacts
High	6 to 9 feet above ground	Prepare for major flooding. Some travel routes may be closed.
Extreme	> 9 feet above ground	Prepare for devastating to catastrophic flooding.

Threat Event Summary

- ✓ **Confidence** High on accumulations and expected impacts.
- ✓ **What:**



Heavy snow and near-zero visibility, resulting in treacherous travel.



Minor coastal flooding.



Strong winds producing blowing/drifting snow and minor damage.



Hazardous marine conditions due to storm force winds and rough seas.



Flash freeze for Southeast MA and RI Thurs AM.

- ✓ **Where:** All of Southern New England
- ✓ **When:** Today

Contact and Next Briefing Information

Next Briefing

When: By 6 PM Thu., December 17

Method: via email



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508-622-3250



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