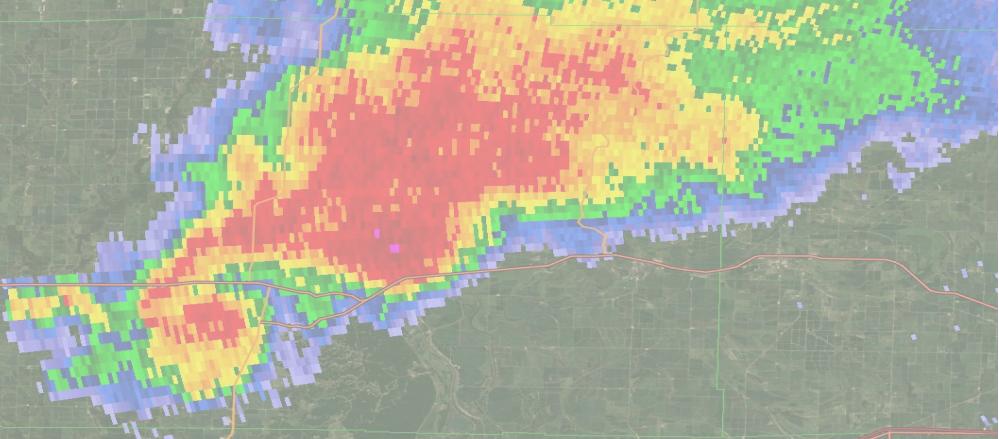




National Weather Service Boston, MA

Emergency Management Briefing Winter Storm Jan 25-26th Friday 1/23/2026 1:30 PM





Incoming Cold and Late Weekend Storm

January 23, 2026
1:30 PM

For Southern New England

Decision Support Briefing:

Key Messages

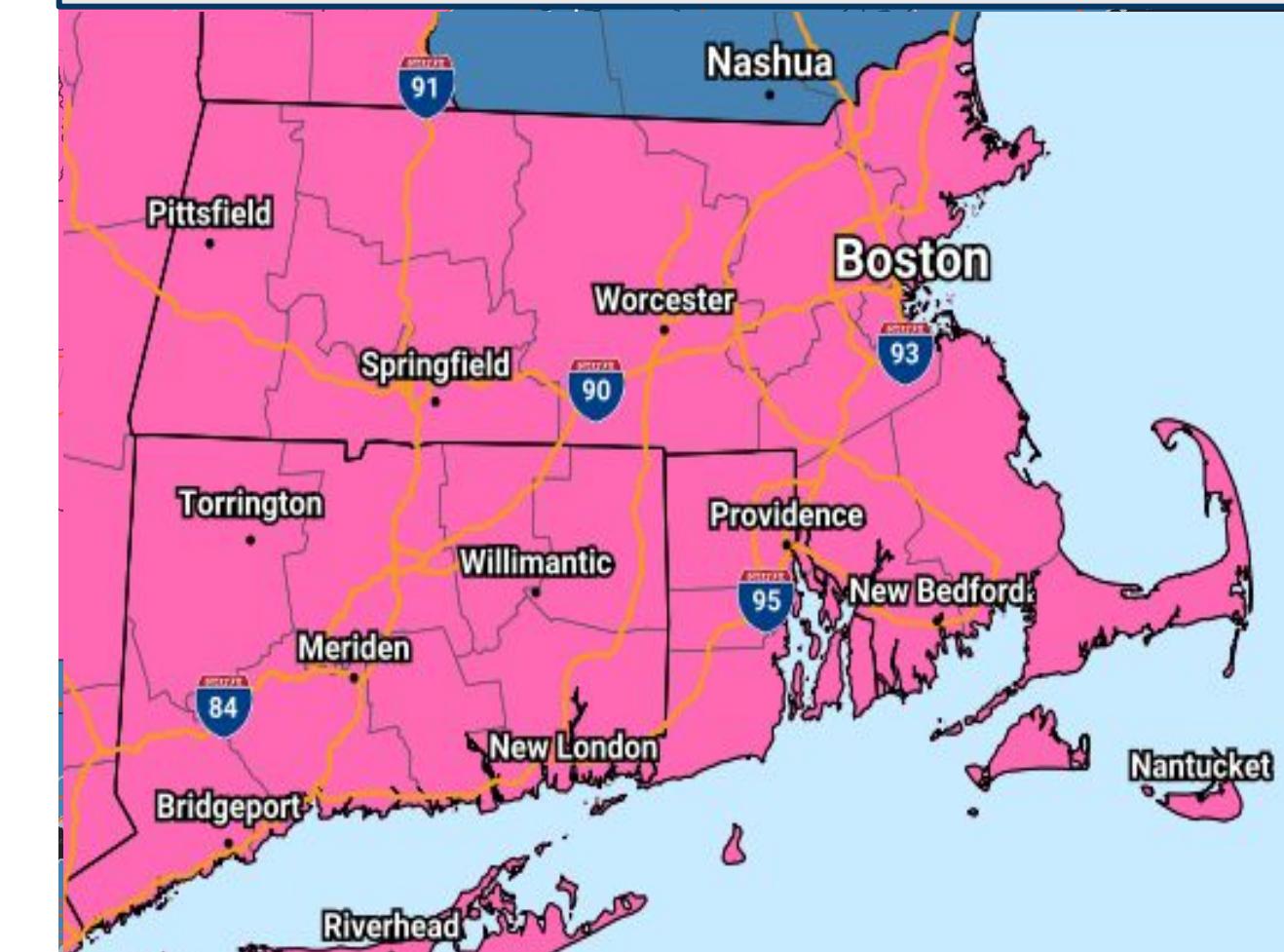
- Cold temperatures/hazardous wind chills Friday night-Saturday.
- High Impact Winter storm Sunday-Monday.
 - Difficult travel, especially late Sunday through early Monday (early Mon commute).

INFO

New Information/Updates

- Upgrade: Winter Storm Watch to Winter Storm Warning.
- Biggest question right now is how much any mixed precip on the south shore might bring down snow totals.
- Next Briefing: Saturday Afternoon 2/24.

Current Headlines



WINTER STORM
WATCH

WINTER STORM
WARNING



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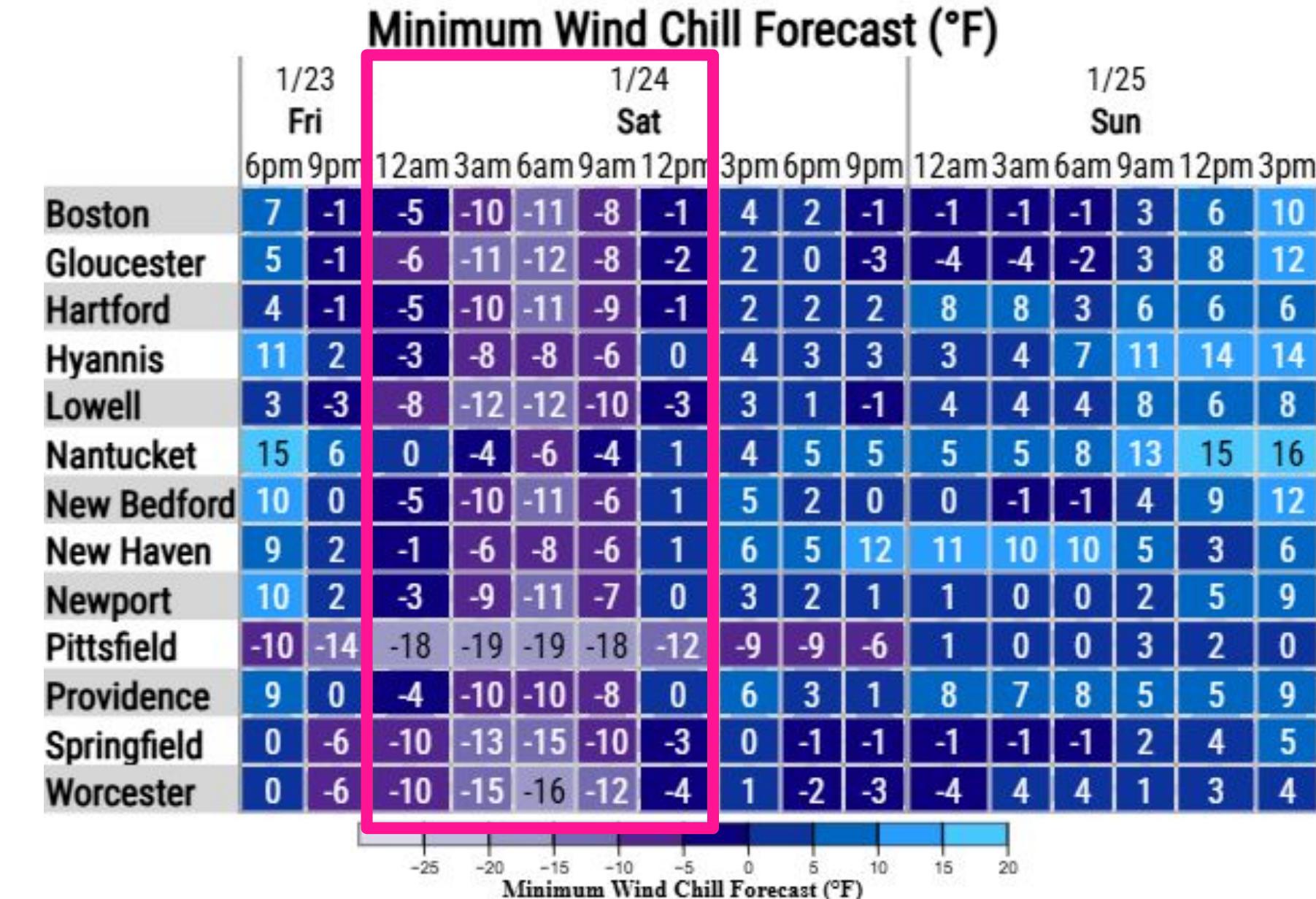
Forecast Minimum Wind Chills

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Hazardous Wind Chills Friday Night into early Saturday

Key Messages

- Combination of well below normal temperatures and gusty winds will bring bitter cold wind chills Fri Night into the weekend.
- Hazardous wind chills, especially for east slope of Berkshires.
- Extreme Cold Warning and Cold Advisories in effect Friday Night-Saturday AM.



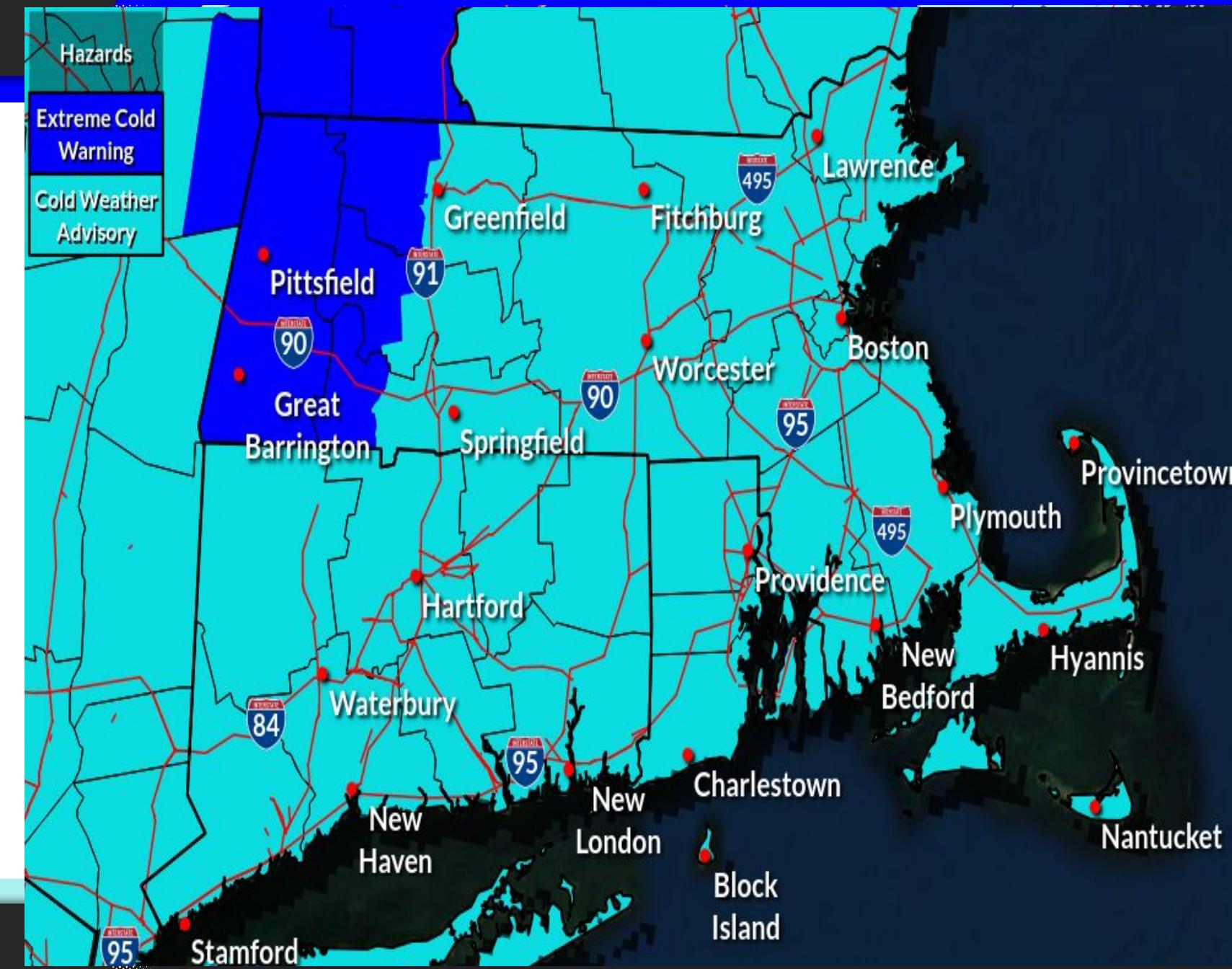
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Extreme Cold Warning | Cold Weather Advisory

Tonight into Saturday Morning

- **Extreme Cold Warning: East Slope of Berkshires.**
 - Wind chills as low as -25°F
 - May cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes.
- **Cold Weather Advisory: Rest of southern southern New England (except Cape and Islands).**
 - Wind chills as low as -20°F
 - May cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes.



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Most Likely Snowfall

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Timing Confidence

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

- Snow likely arrives Sun AM into early afternoon.
- Timing of heaviest snow: Late Sun and Sun night.
- Light to moderate snow likely lingers through much of Mon, especially central and eastern MA

Snow Amounts Confidence

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

- High confidence (80-100%) for a foot or more of snow, especially north of CT/RI border.
- Lower confidence in amounts for RI and SE MA including and Cape and Islands due to potential for snow mixing with or changing to sleet.

Travel Impacts Confidence

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

Travel will be difficult, especially late Sun and Sun evening when snowfall accumulation rates will be highest. Travel impacts continue through Mon.



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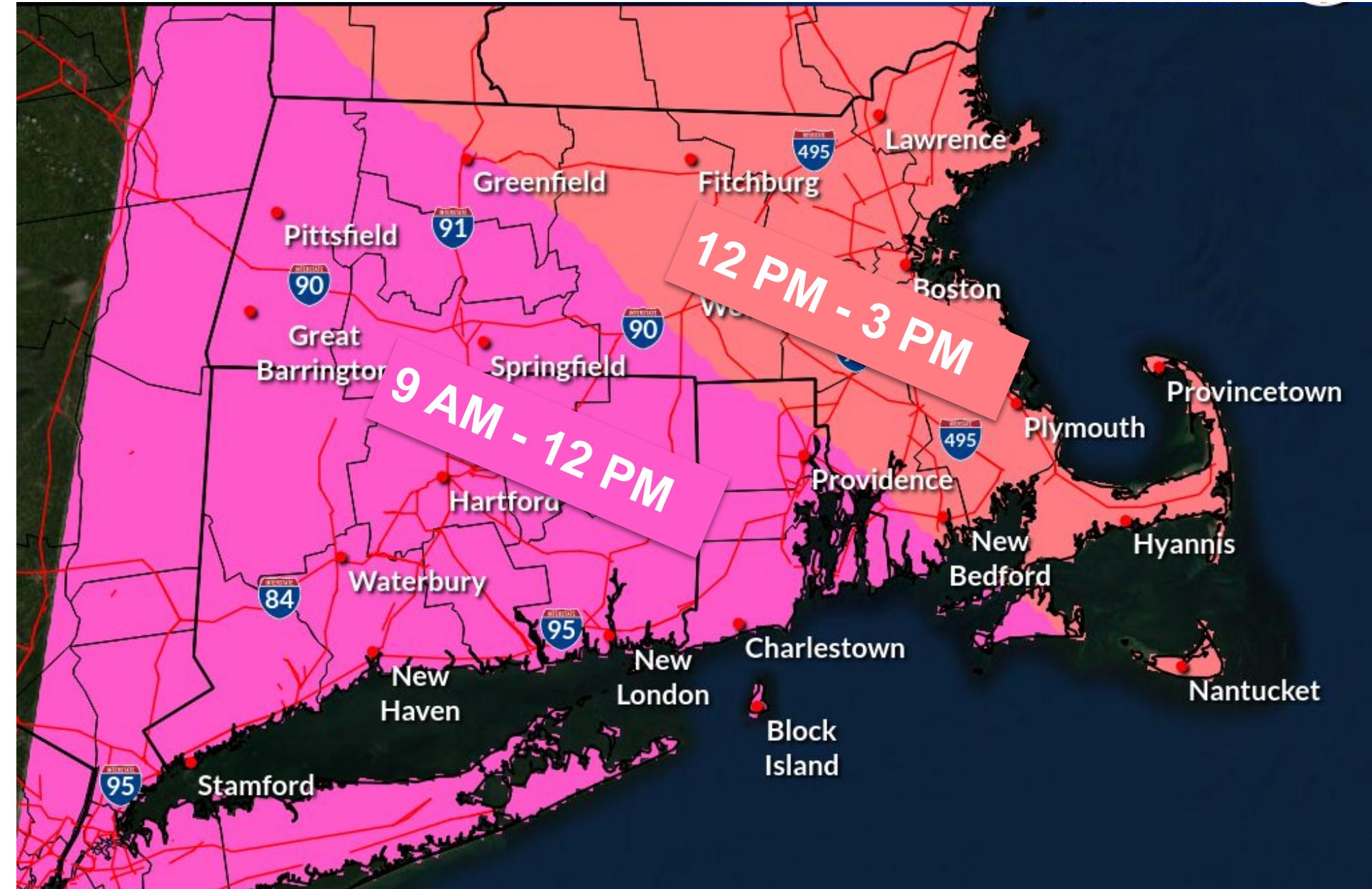
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Snow Onset Time

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Will Be Refined as we get closer to the storm



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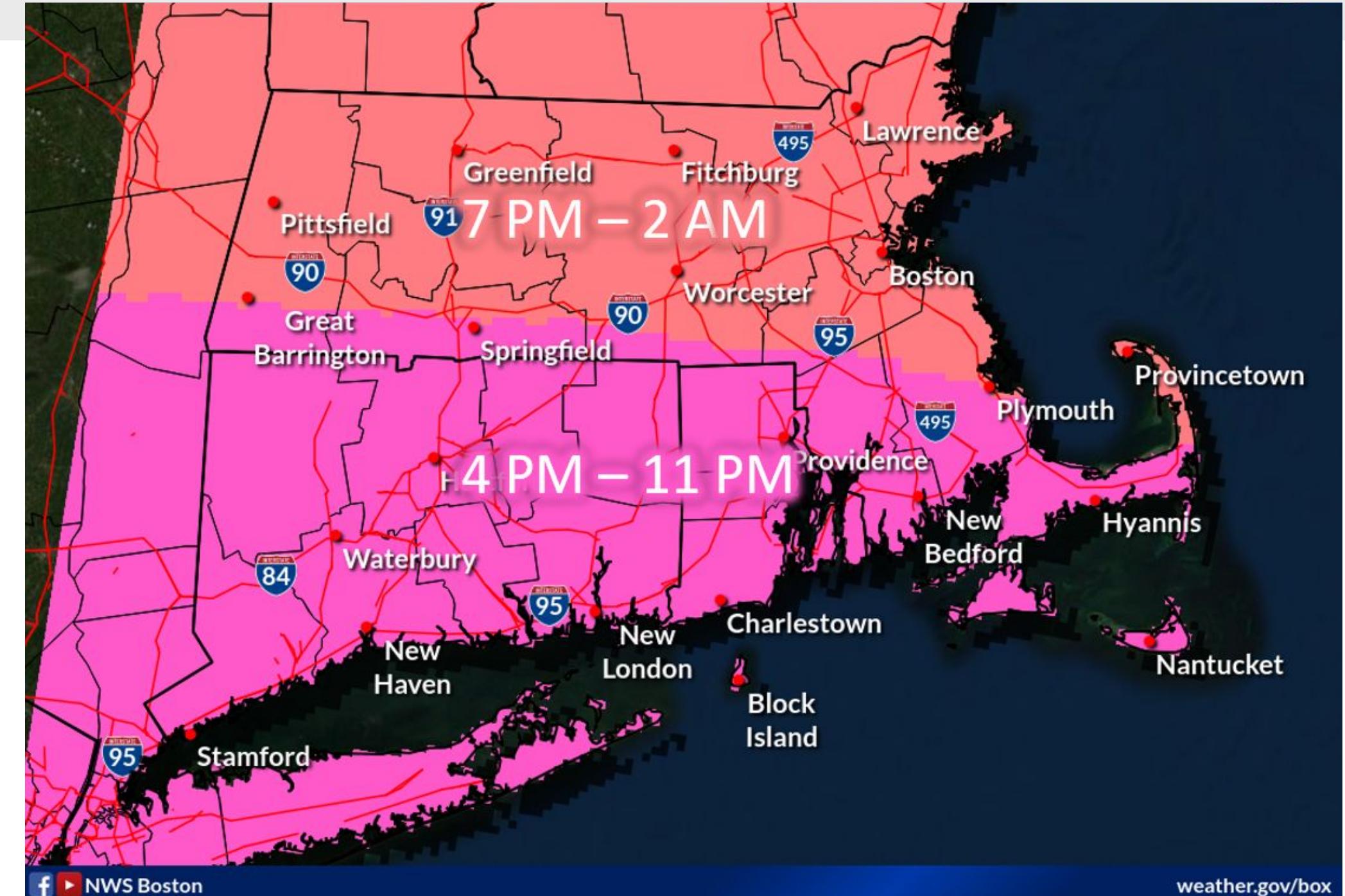
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Heaviest Snowfall Rates (1-2"/hr)

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Snowfall rates up to 2"/hr will likely occur in a 3 hour window within this time period



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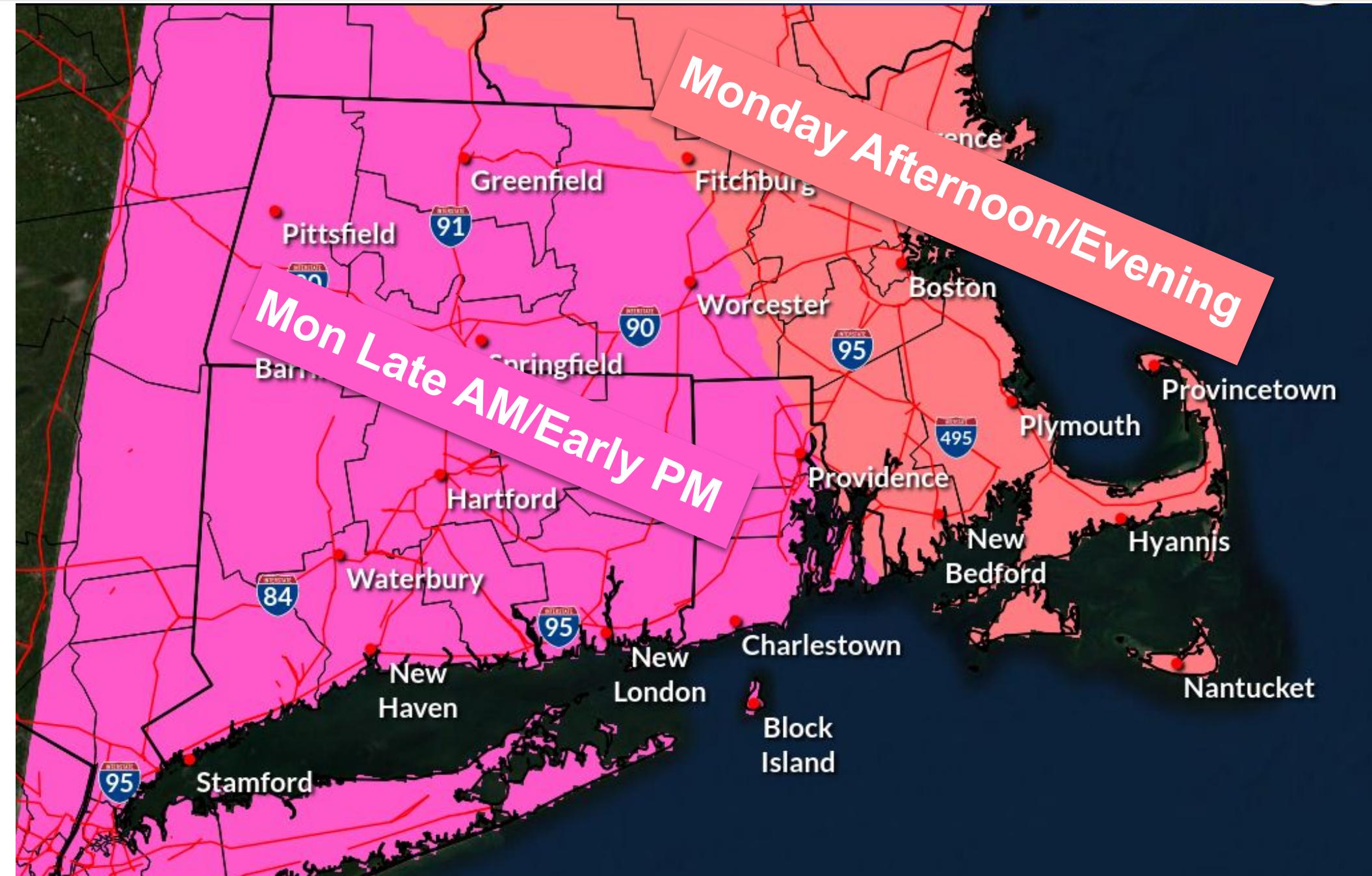
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Snow Ending Time

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Snow becomes much lighter as it tapers off through the day on Monday



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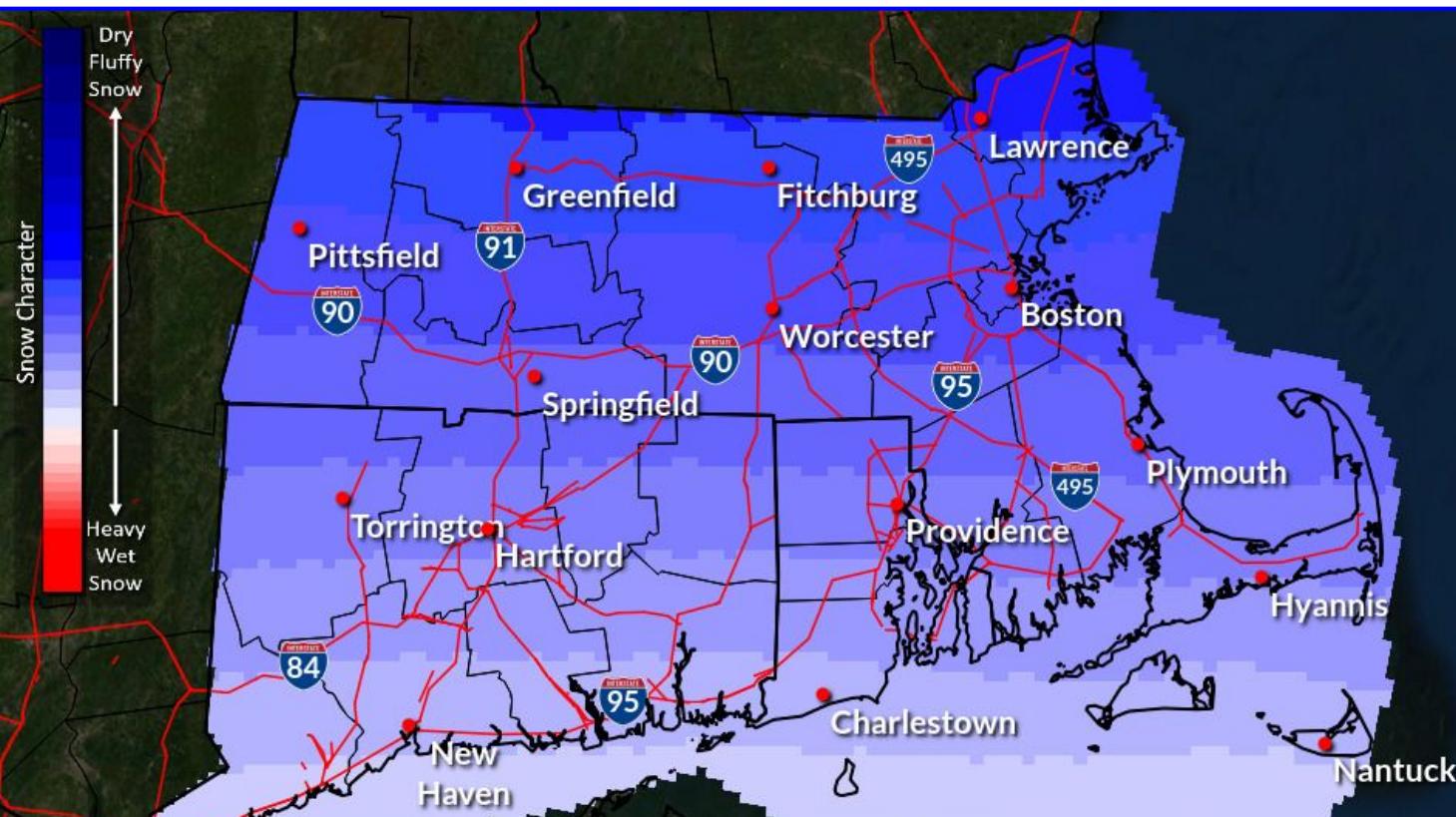
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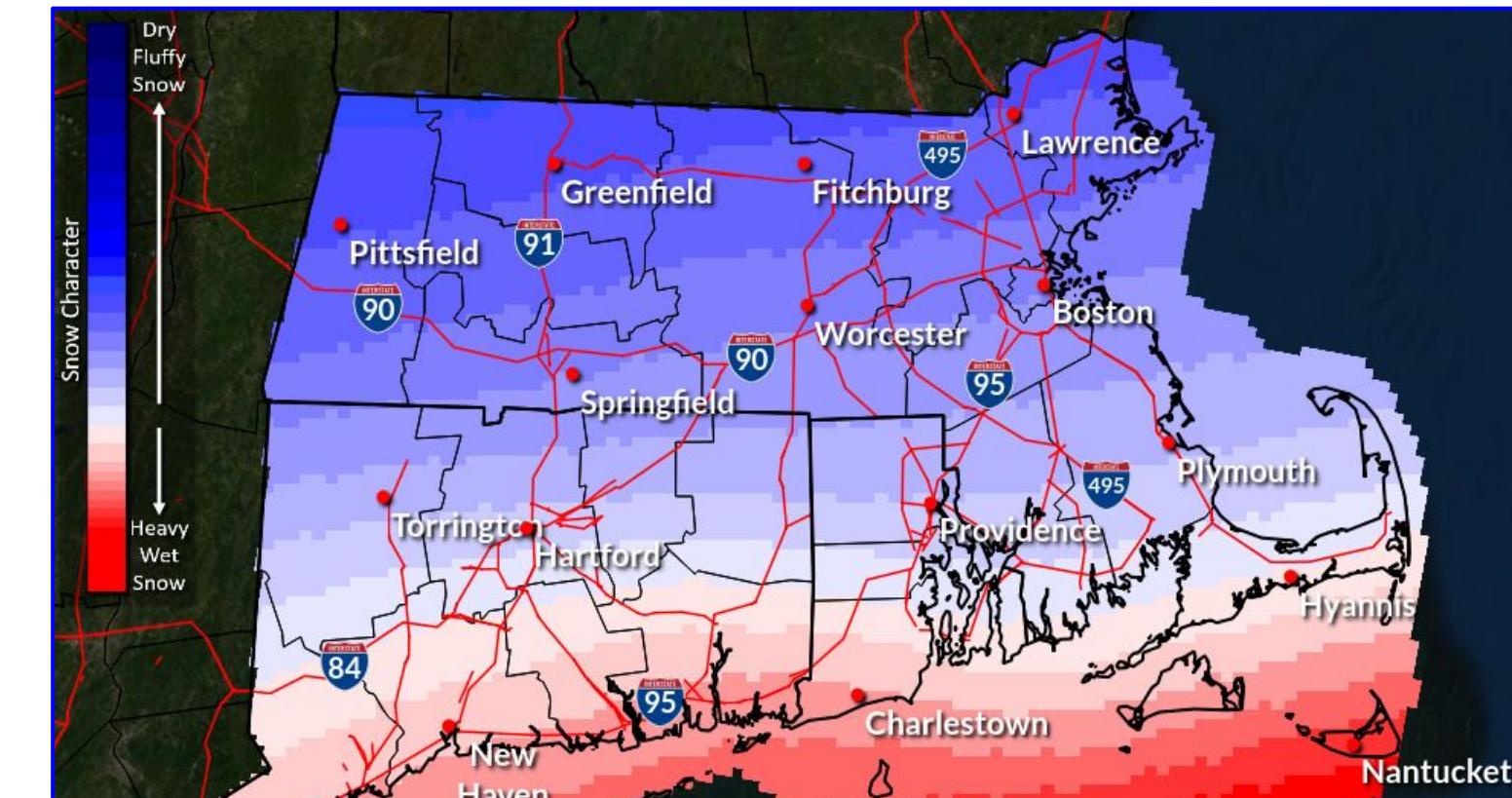
Snow Character (Wet or Dry)

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7 PM Sun through 1 AM Monday



1 AM Mon through 7 AM Monday



Leaning drier and fluffier - arrival of snow and for main portion of the storm.

Becoming more "wet" toward end of the storm, especially south.



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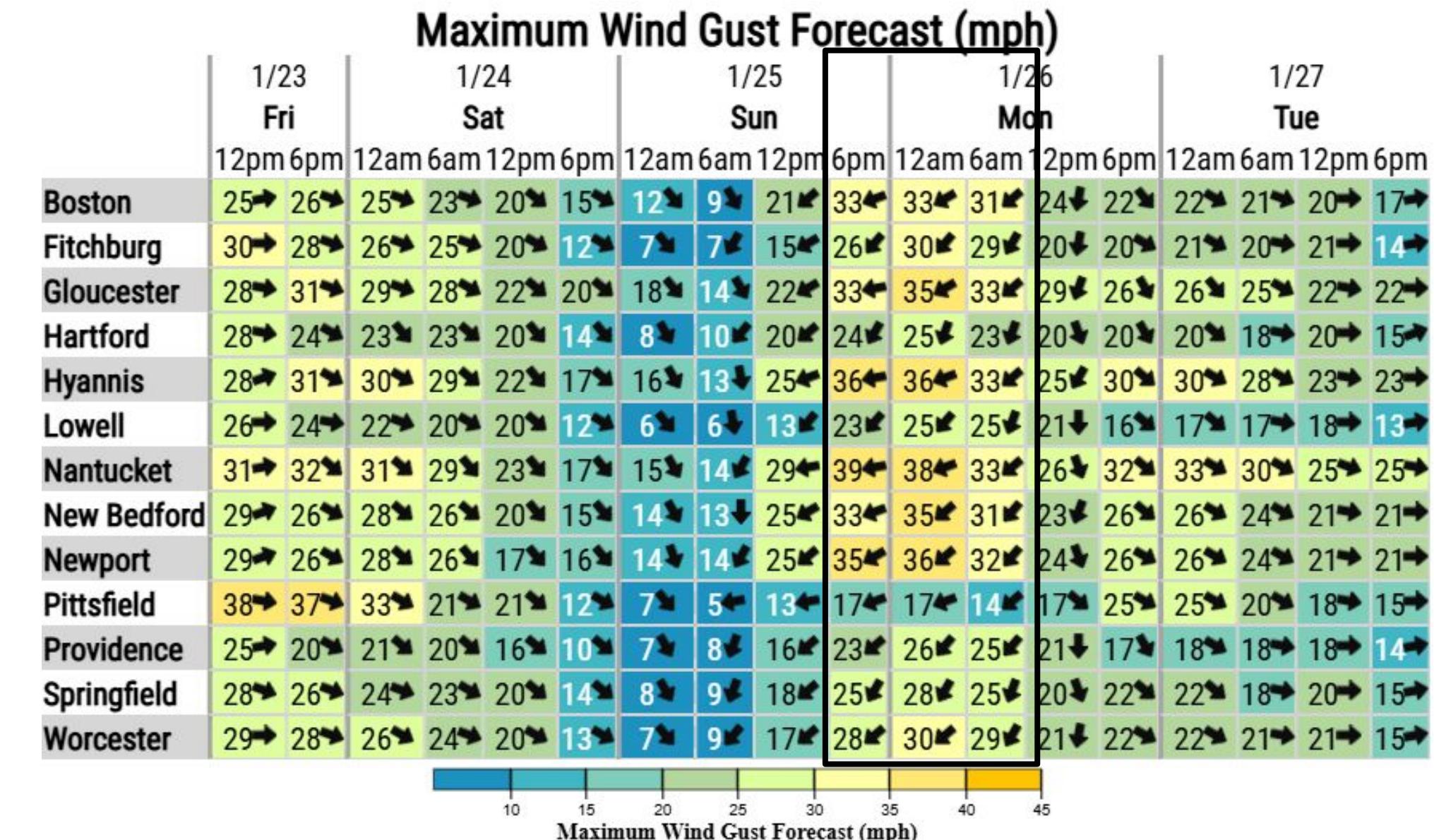


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Maximum Wind Gust Forecast

Key Messages:

- Gusty winds expected Friday night-Saturday with arctic front passage.
- Period of gusty winds possible Sunday night-early Monday AM.
 - Brief period of near-blizzard conditions possible near coast.

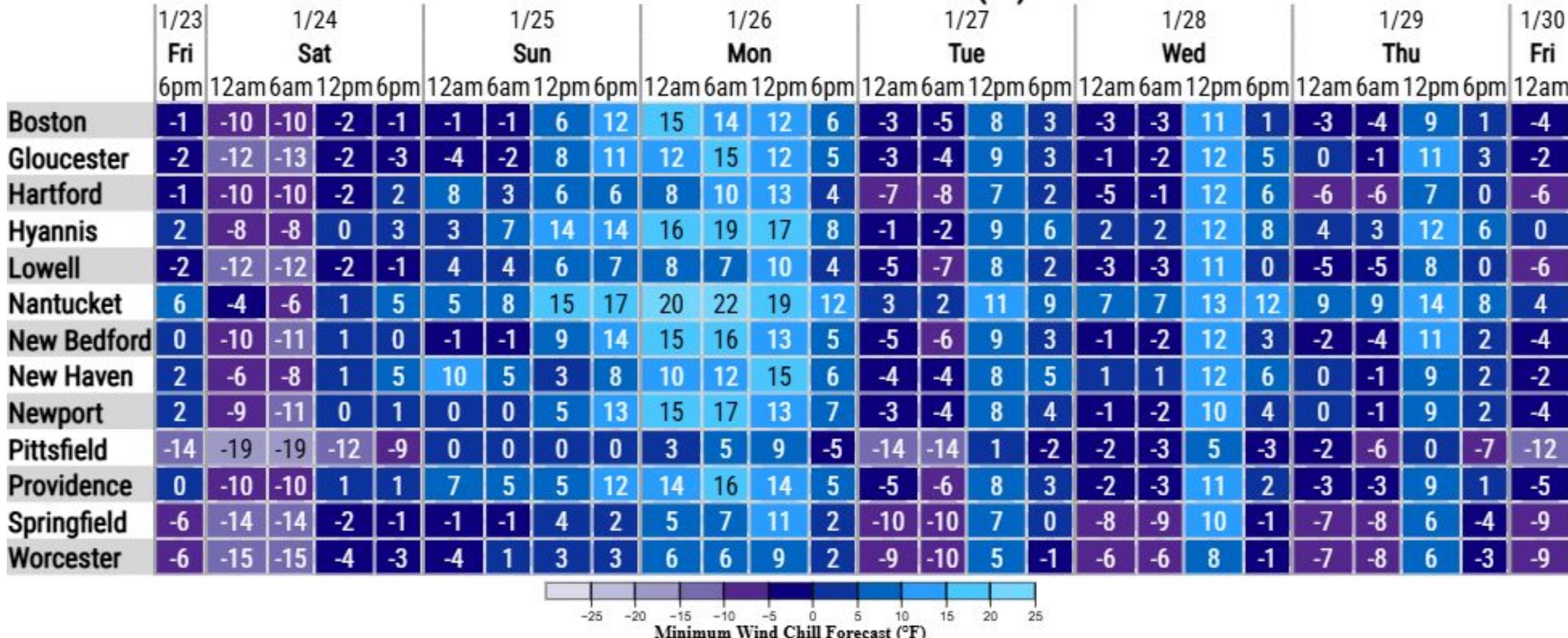




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Wind Chill Forecast after the Storm

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)



Created: 9 am EST Fri 1/23/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.



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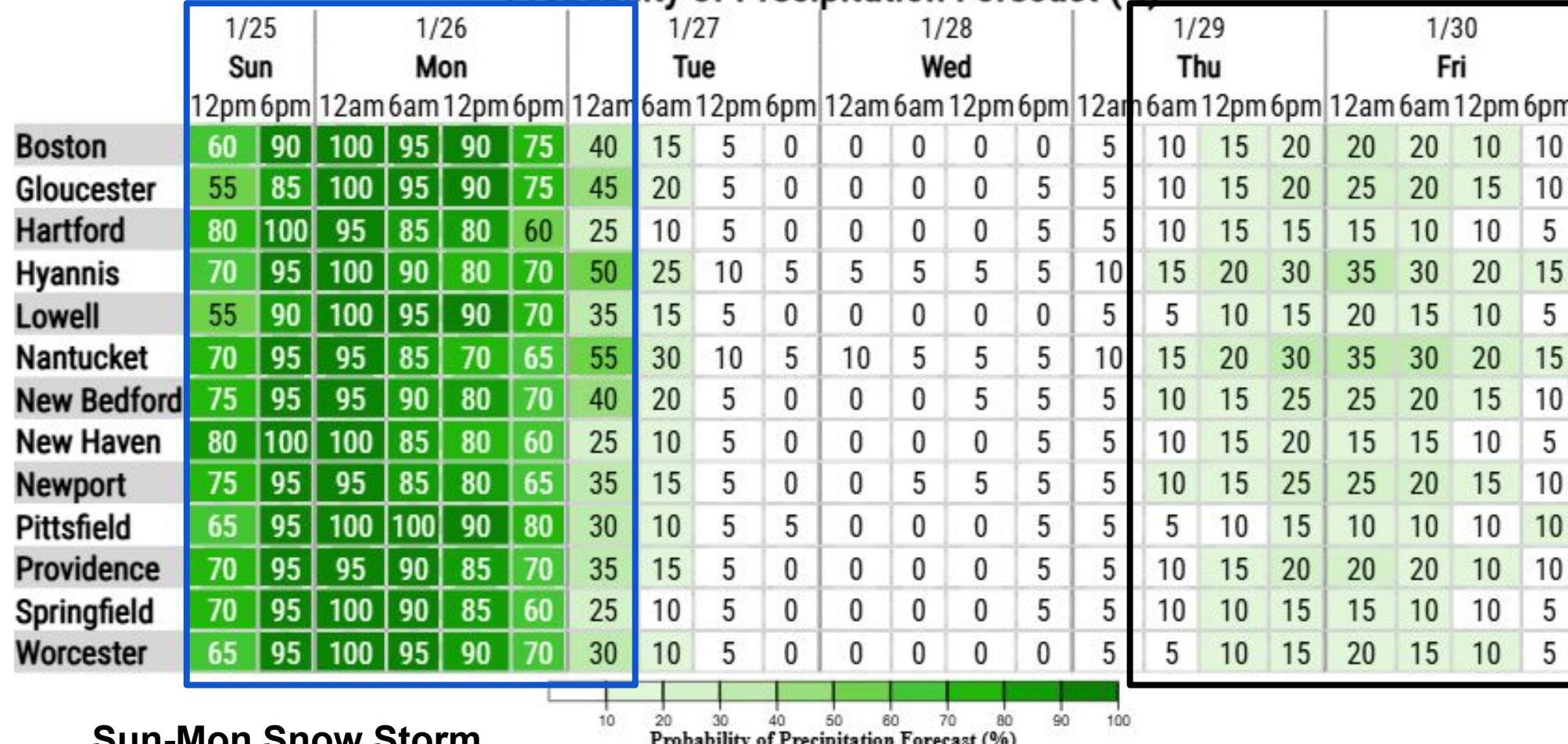
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Precipitation Chances

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Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)



Low chances for precipitation late-week, otherwise mainly dry this week.

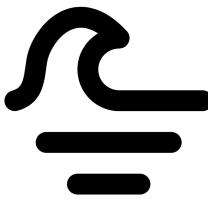


Gale Warning

Friday Afternoon through Saturday Morning



- Massachusetts and Rhode Island Coastal Waters



SEAS

- Potential for up **WIND** to 15 FT for east • Up to 40 kts outer waters

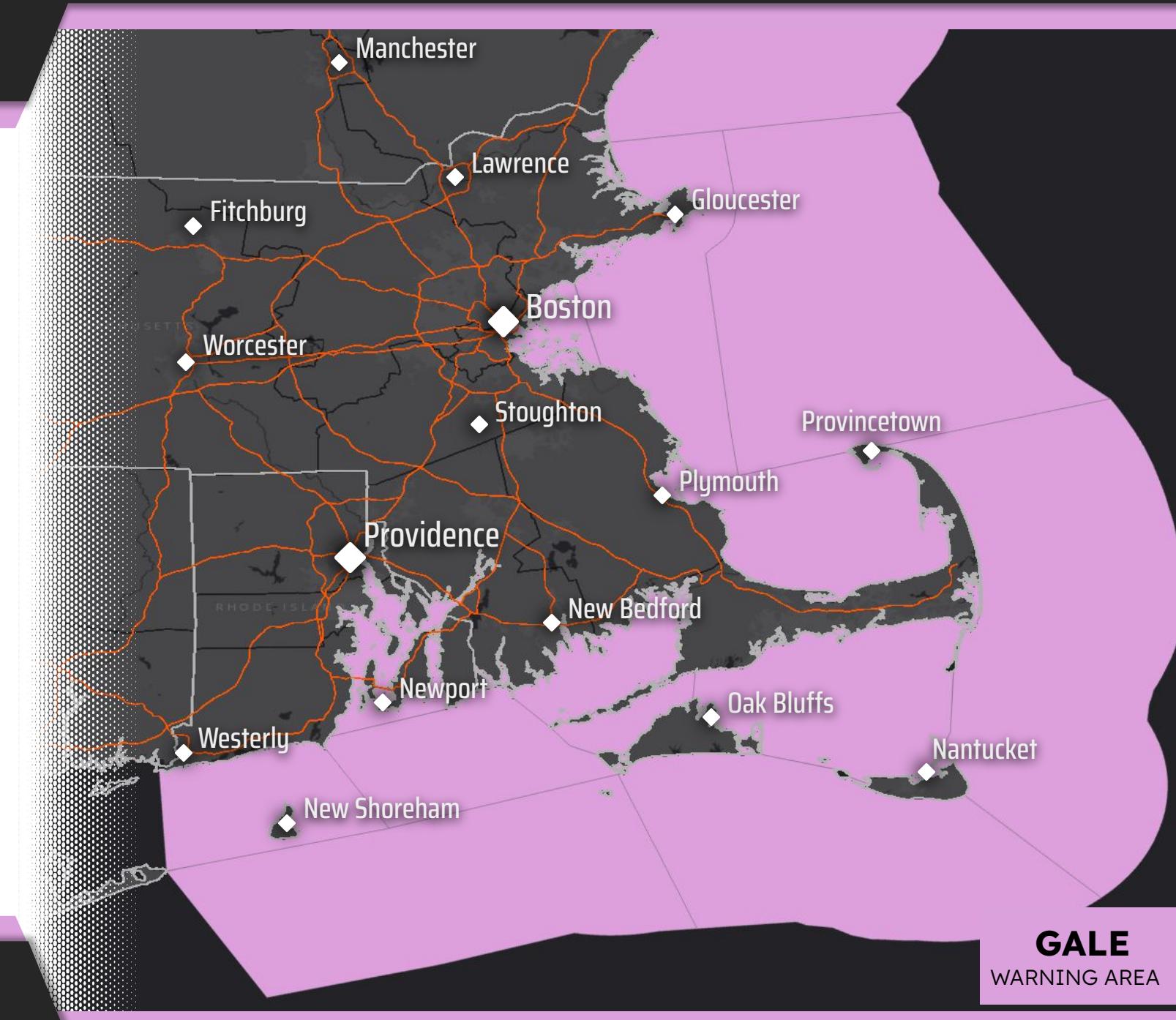


- Wind and wave conditions will be hazardous for small craft.
- Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions.



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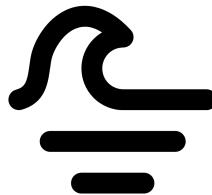
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Heavy Freezing Spray Warning & Advisory

Friday Night through Saturday



- Massachusetts and Rhode Island Coastal Waters



- Moderate -heavy freezing spray expected

SEAS

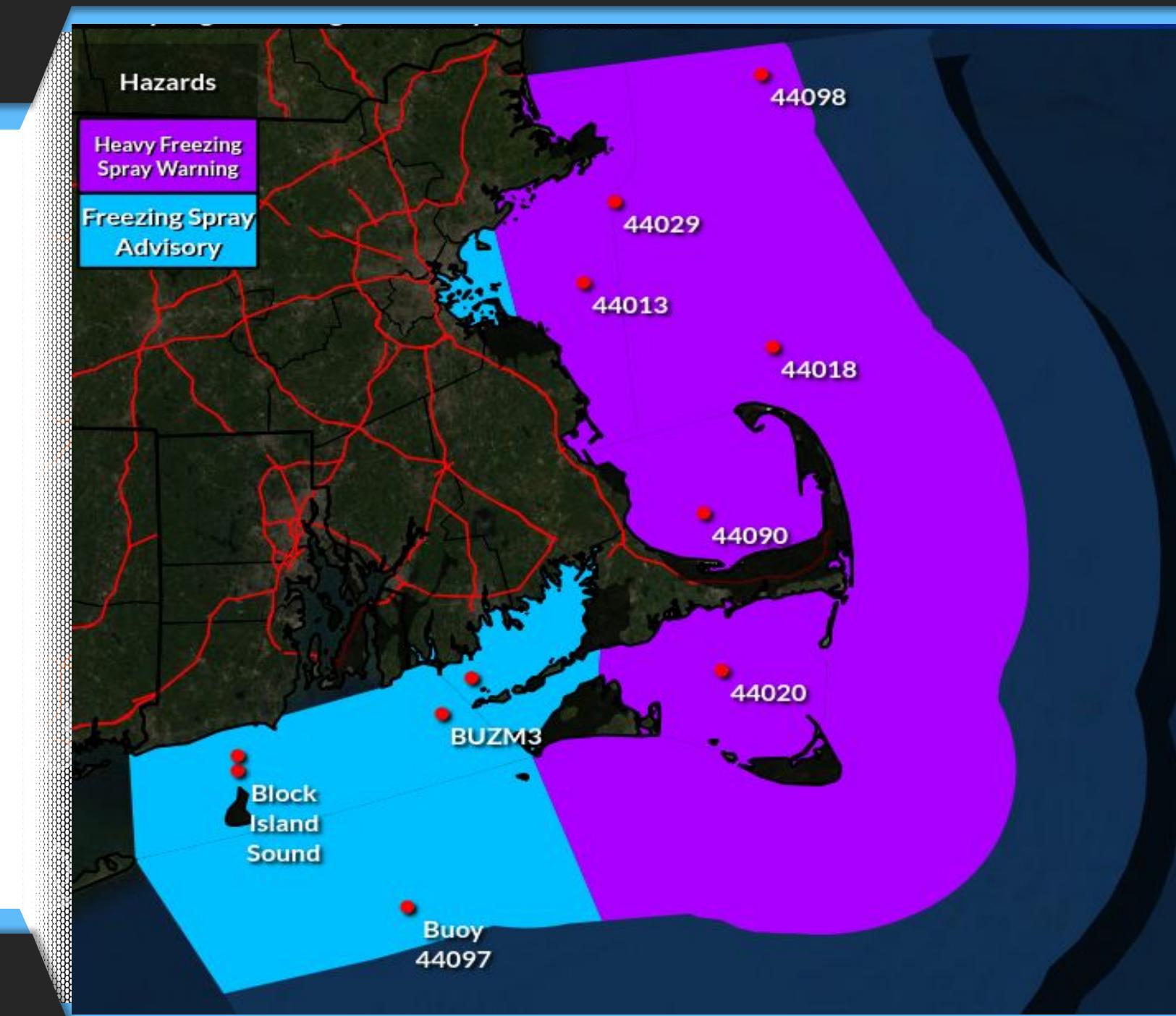
- Rough seas

WIND

- Up to 40 KT



- Rapid ice accretion on decks and superstructures may result in a catastrophic loss of stability.
 - Freezing Spray Advisory: Ice accretion rates 0.3" - 0.8" per hr.
 - Freezing Spray Warning: Ice accretion rates of 0.8" - 1.6" per hr.



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Contact and Next Briefing Information

January 23, 2026
1:30 PM

For Southern New England



Next Email Briefing

→ By 5 AM Saturday 1/24



Contact Information

Web

→ weather.gov/box

Phone

→ (508) 622-3280

Email

→ box.operations@noaa.gov

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