

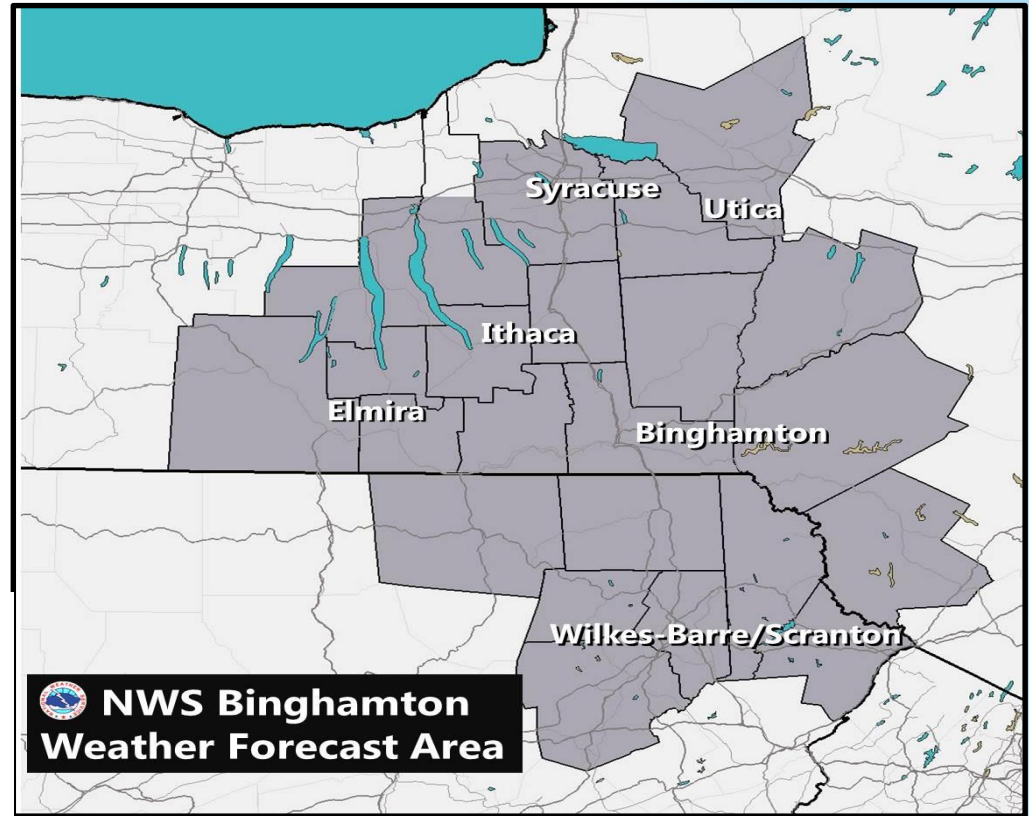
# Heavy Rain & High Winds Expected Flooding Possible

Decision Support Briefing #2  
As of 4:45 AM Dec 23, 2020




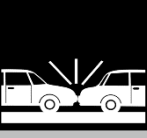


## What Has Changed?

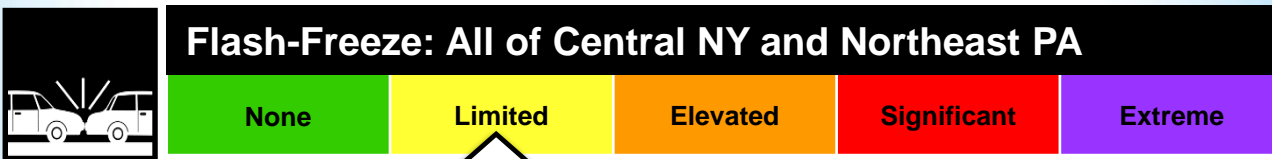
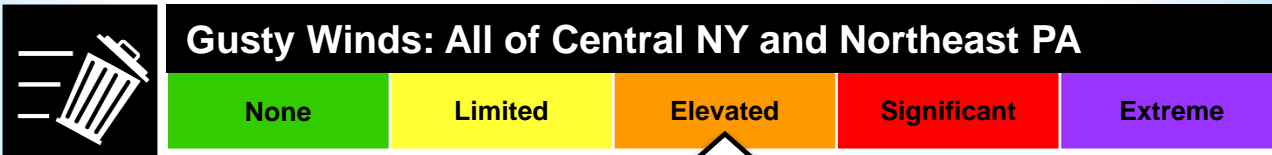
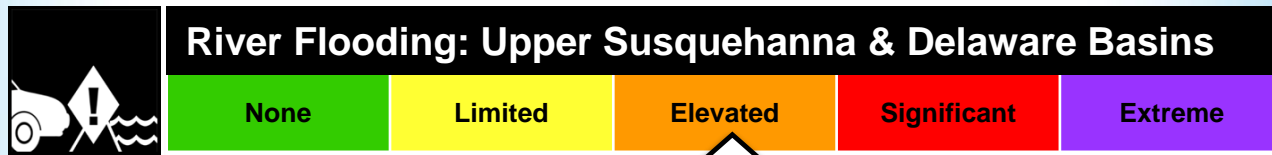
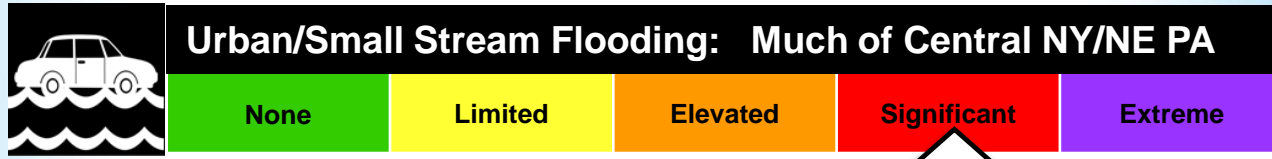
- ✓ Increased rainfall amounts Thursday & Thursday night
- ✓ Expecting slightly stronger winds/gusts late Thursday/ Thur night
- ✓ Conditions more favorable for snowmelt and a higher threat for flooding
- ✓ Later arrival of cold temperatures on Christmas



# Main Points

| Hazard  | Impacts  | Location  | Timing  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Urban/Poor Drainage Flooding</b>  | Water on roadways/urban areas (clogged storm drains) & rapid rises on small streams                      | Most of Central NY and all of Northeast PA                                    | Steady moderate to heavy rain Thursday through Thursday night |
| <b>River Flooding</b>                | Quick rises on rivers and streams Thursday, with some spots reaching minor flood stage by Thursday night | Mainly Susquehanna Basin (from Southern Tier NY and NE PA) and Delaware Basin | Thursday through Friday                                       |
| <b>Strong, Gusty Winds</b>           | Small branches may be snapped, loose outdoor objects blown around; scattered power outages are possible  | All of Central NY and Northeast PA  | Wednesday night through Thursday night                        |
| <b>Flash-Freeze</b>                | Roads/surfaces may become icy and snow covered   | All of Central NY and Northeast PA  | On Christmas Day  |

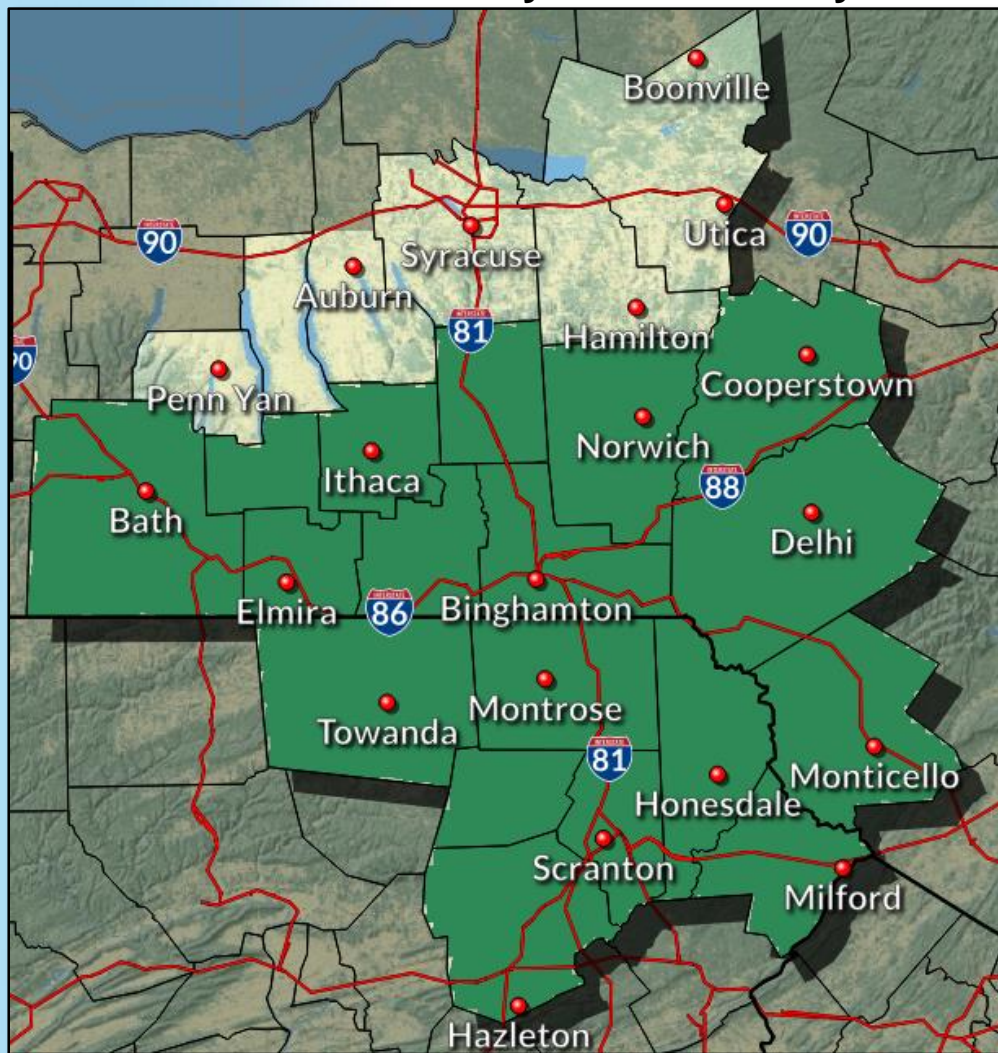
# Summary of Greatest Impacts



# Flood Watch

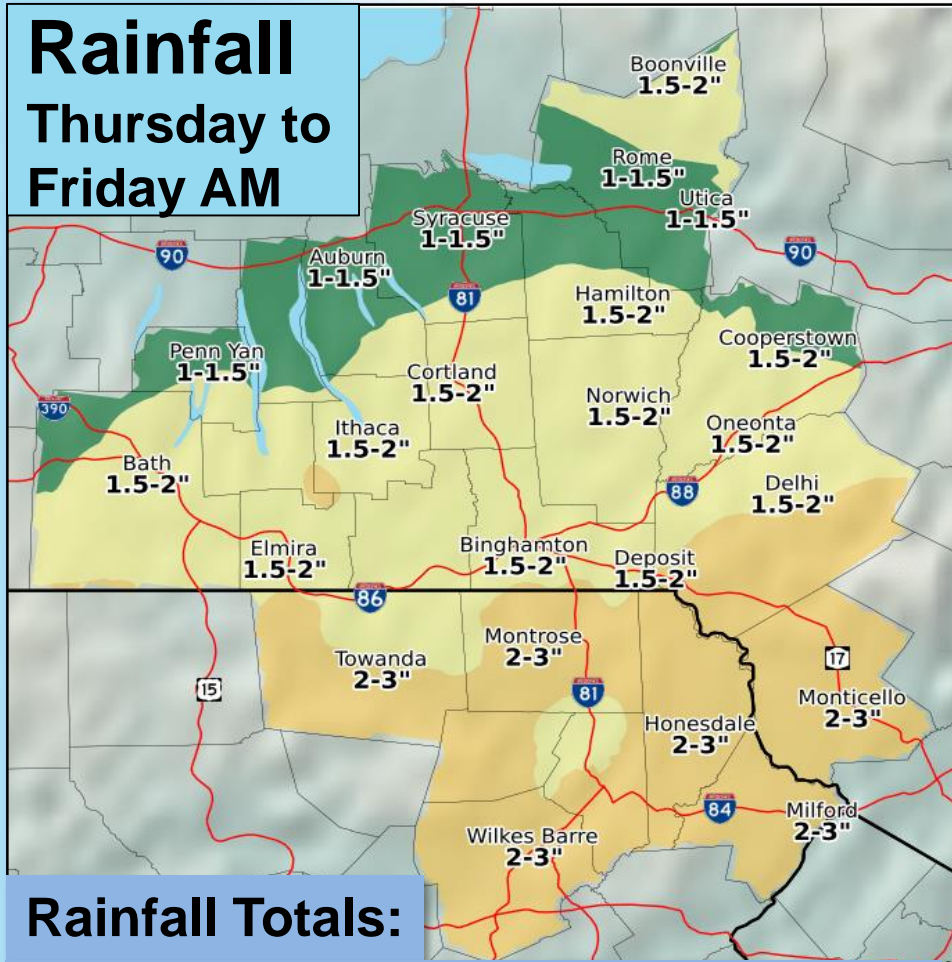
12 PM Thursday – 12 PM Friday

Flood Watch in Effect



- ✓ River flooding Possible across Northeast PA, the Catskills, & portions of the Southern Tier NY
- ✓ Flooding also possible along roadways, in urban areas and in and around poor drainage areas (storm drains likely clogged or blocked by snow/ice)
- ✓ Significant rises expected on small streams; flooding possible

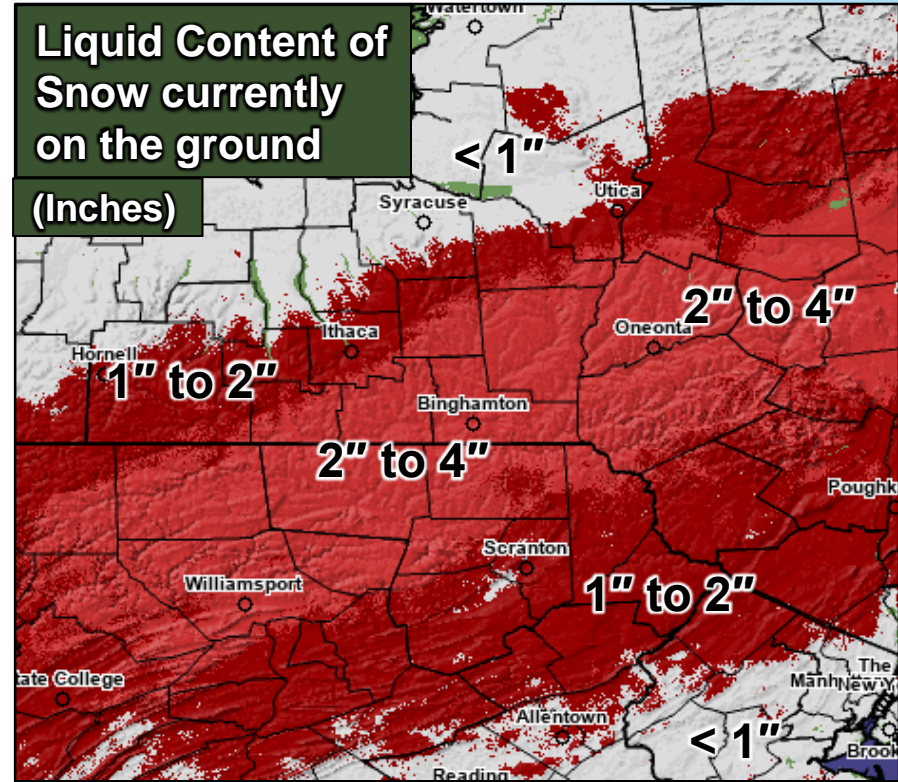
# Rainfall Thursday to Friday AM



## Rainfall Totals:

Widespread 1 to 2", locally 2.5 to 3"  
Catskills, Poconos and Allegheny Plateau

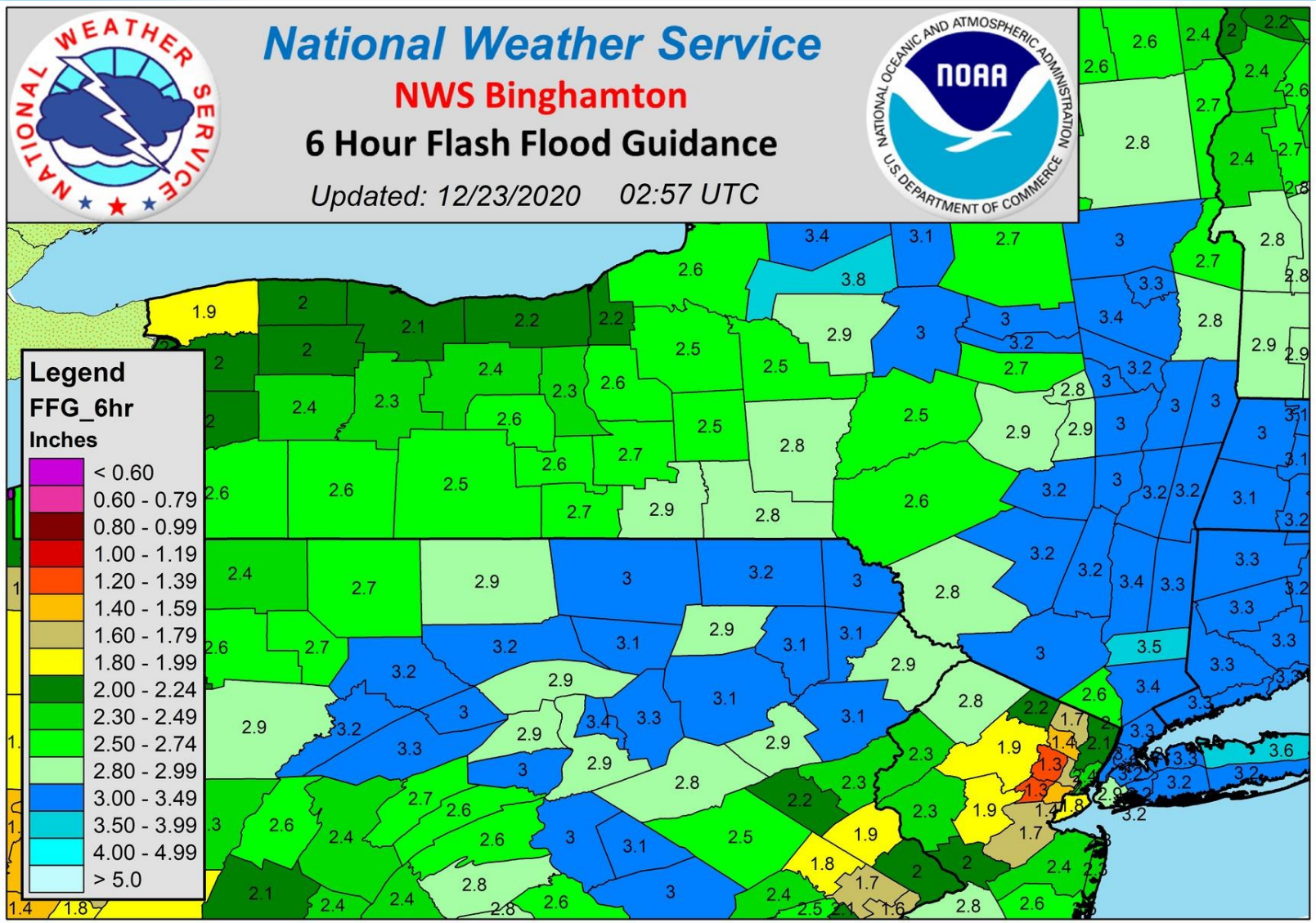
## Liquid Content of Snow currently on the ground (Inches)



Combination of Rain and Snowmelt  
will create favorable conditions for  
flooding

**Timing:** Showers move in Thursday morning. The heaviest rain will be Thursday afternoon through Thur night. Tapering off & changing to snow showers Friday morning

# Estimated 6-hour rainfall/snow melt totals needed to cause flash flooding:

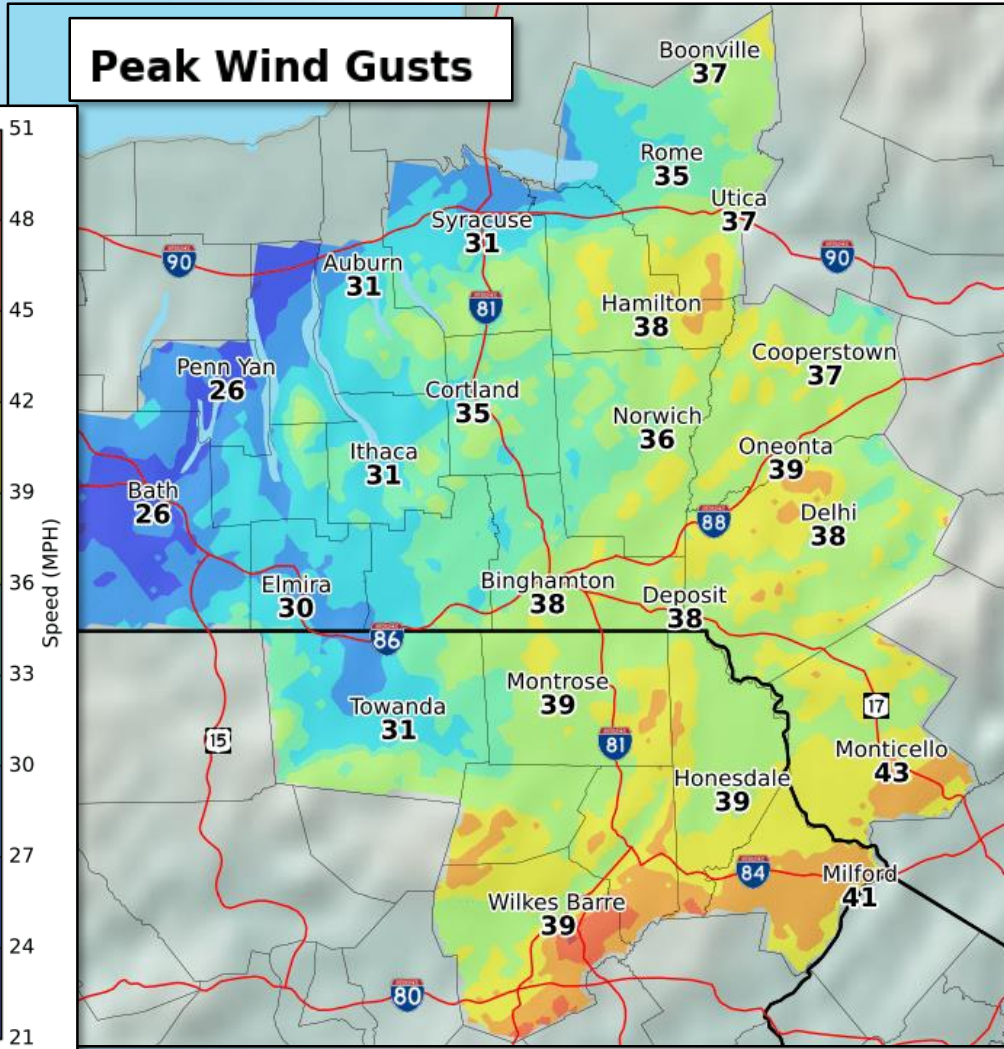


# Strongest Winds/Gusts Expected Late Thursday & Thursday Night

**Timing:** South winds increase Wednesday night and remain gusty 15 to 25 mph through Thursday. The strongest winds will be late Thursday into Thursday night - gusts 35 to 45 mph in the high terrain east of I-81.

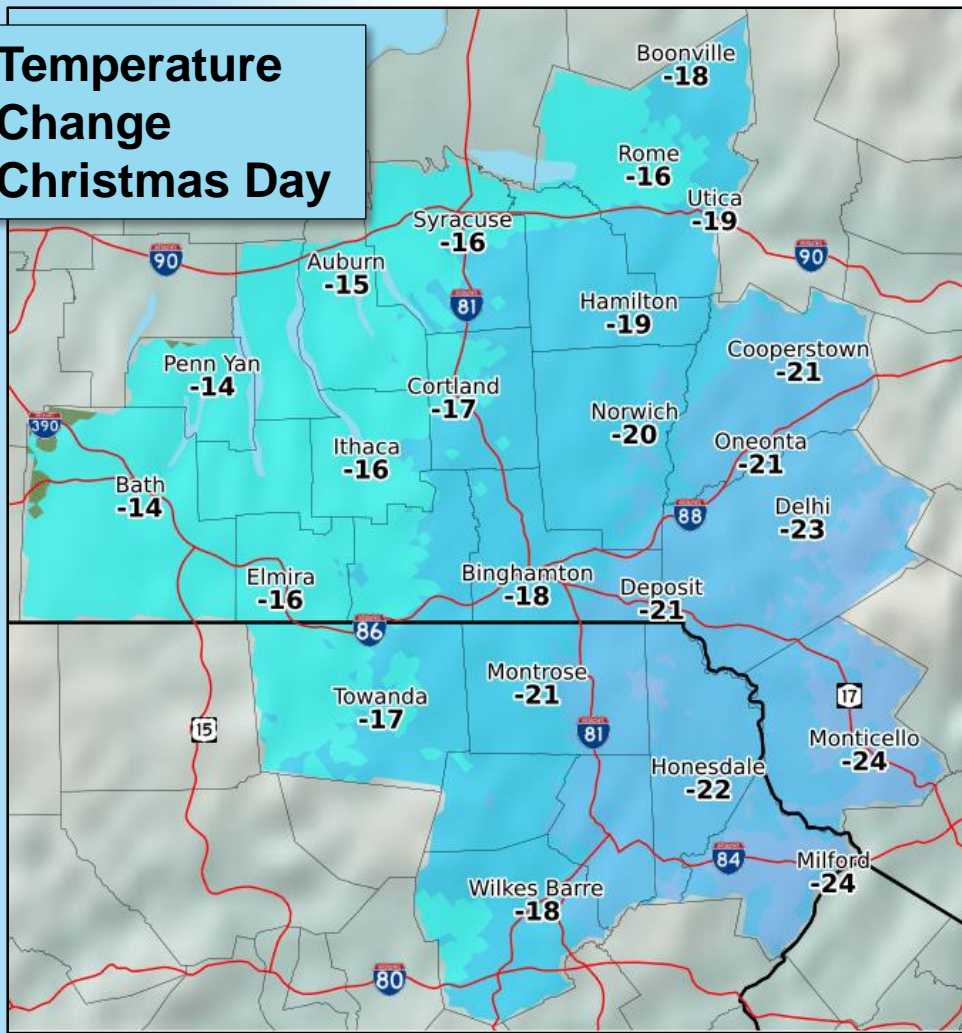
**Impacts:** Small branches may be snapped and loose outdoor objects blown around. Scattered power outages are possible.

The combination of winds & high humidity will create **very favorable conditions for rapid snowmelt** – combined with rainfall will increase the potential for flooding.



# Rapidly Falling Temperatures Christmas Day Flash-Freeze Possible

## Temperature Change Christmas Day



### Change from previous forecast:

- Onset of cold air (later than previously expected) now expected during Christmas Day

- Temperatures hold steady 40s & 50s Christmas Eve then fall into the 20s Christmas Day.
- Temperatures bottom out in the teens Christmas Night.

**Impacts: Wet roads may ice over & become slippery. Black ice is possible.**



# Event Summary

## **\*\* Confidence increasing for river flooding and urban & small stream flooding due to heavy rain and snow melt Thursday into Friday**

- ✓ Light showers Thursday morning, followed by a long period of steady, moderate to heavy rain Thursday afternoon through Thursday night.
- ✓ The combination of strong south winds, high humidity & temperatures and rainfall will create favorable conditions for rapid snow melt and lead to a heightened potential for flooding.
- ✓ Total rainfall expected to be a widespread 1 to 2" with localized amounts up to 3" in the Poconos, Catskills and Alleghany Plateau.
- ✓ Excessive rain and snowmelt may lead to some flash flooding across urban, low-lying and poor drainage areas Thursday through Thursday night (snow/ice clogged drains)
- ✓ River flooding is also possible Thursday through Friday.
- ✓ The strong southeast winds 15-30 mph, gusts up to 45 mph Thursday and Thursday night could cause scattered power outages and tree damage.



# Contact and Next Briefing Information



**Next Briefing**  
**When:** 5 PM Wednesday  
**Method:** Email / Online



**Web:**  
[www.weather.gov/bgm](http://www.weather.gov/bgm)



**Phone (public):**  
(607)-729-1597



**Facebook:**  
[@NWSBinghamton](https://www.facebook.com/NWSBinghamton)



**Twitter:**  
[@NWSBinghamton](https://twitter.com/NWSBinghamton)

**Disclaimer:** The information contained within this briefing is time-sensitive, do not use after 5 PM Wednesday (12/23/20).