



HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION THROUGH CONSOLIDATION AND REFORMATTING

CONSOLIDATION

By consolidating various message types for winter weather, the NWS will reduce the number of Watch, Warning and Advisory messages.

REFORMATTING

NWS is creating a consistent message format that will initially be used for winter products. The "What, Where and When" will be addressed up front, followed by precautionary and preparedness actions.



HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION: PRODUCT REFORMATTING

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WWUS41 KBUF 172200
WSWBUF

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service Buffalo NY
500 PM EST Mon Nov 17 2014

NYZ010>012-085-180600-
/O.NEW.KBUF.LE.W.0001.141117T2200Z-141119T1800Z/
Northern Erie-Genesee-Wyoming-Southern Erie-
Including the cities of Buffalo, Batavia, Warsaw, Orchard Park,
and Springville
500 PM EST Mon Nov 17 2014

...LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 1 PM EST
WEDNESDAY...

* WHAT...Heavy lake effect snow occurring until 1 PM Wednesday.
Heavy lake effect snow possible from late Wednesday night
through late Thursday night. Travel will be very difficult to
impossible. Additional snow accumulations of 3 to 4 feet are
expected in the most persistent lake snows until 1 PM
Wednesday.

* WHERE...Erie, Genesee, and Wyoming counties.

* WHEN...Until 1 PM Wednesday.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Winds gusting as high as 40 mph will
cause areas of blowing and drifting snow.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Lake Effect Snow Warning means significant amounts of lake
effect snow are forecast that will make travel very hazardous or
impossible. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food,
and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. The latest
road conditions for your area can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.

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The new format will highlight the

WHAT, WHERE and WHEN

followed by precautionary
and preparedness actions.



HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION: PRODUCT CONSOLIDATION

PREVIOUS PRODUCT

NOW BECOMES

WHICH MEANS

Lake Effect Snow Watch
Blizzard Watch



WINTER STORM WATCH



Issued for the *potential* of a *significant winter weather event* (heavy snow, sleet, ice, or blowing snow)

Lake Effect Snow Advisory
Freezing Rain Advisory



WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY



Issued when *snow, blowing snow, ice, or sleet is expected* but conditions should not be hazardous enough to meet warning criteria.



In selected Great Lakes regions, Lake Effect Snow Warning becomes a Winter Storm Warning. This is not the case in New York State. Lake Effect Snow Warnings will continue to be issued.

Changes are effective October 1, 2017.

For more information, go to: weather.gov/hazardsimplification