

WINTRY WEATHER LAST NIGHT WILL INTENSIFY THIS AFTERNOON AND CAUSE DANGEROUS CONDITIONS ESPECIALLY INTO EARLY TONIGHT.

AN EXPLOSIVELY DEVELOPING NOR/EASTER WILL BRING HEAVY SNOW TO MUCH OF OUR AREA THROUGH THE EVENING, WITH BLIZZARD CONDITIONS EXPECTED FOR MANY AREAS.

A BLIZZARD WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL MIDNIGHT EST TONIGHT.

THE MIXED PRECIPITATION THAT FELL EARLIER TODAY HAS CHANGED BACK TO ALL SNOW AS OF THE EARLY AFTERNOON. THE SNOW WILL CONTINUE INTO TONIGHT AND BE HEAVY AT TIMES. WINDS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH GUSTS TO BETWEEN 40 AND 50 MPH. THESE STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY SNOWFALL WILL BRING SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED VISIBILITIES, AND BLIZZARD CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED AT TIMES. THE CONDITIONS WILL PERSIST INTO EARLY TONIGHT BEFORE TAPERING OFF.

HOWEVER, WINDS WILL CONTINUE TO BE STRONG THIS EVENING SO THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF BLOWING SNOW WITH REDUCED VISIBILITIES AS WELL TONIGHT.

TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO RANGE FROM 12 TO 22 INCHES INTO EARLY TONIGHT. **WITH THE HIGHEST AMOUNTS STRADDLING THE INTERSTATE 95 CORRIDOR.**

NEAR-BLIZZARD OR BLIZZARD CONDITIONS ARE RARE FOR OUR AREA, SO IT IS LIKELY THAT PEOPLE WILL NOT REALIZE THE PERIL THAT EXISTS IN VENTURING OUT IN SUCH STORMS. LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS ARE POSSIBLE, AND DRIVING WILL BE HAZARDOUS AT BEST DURING THIS WINTER STORM TODAY AND EARLY TONIGHT. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT TRAVEL BE CURTAILED DUE TO THE DANGEROUS CONDITIONS, AND ONLY DRIVE IF IT IS TRULY AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

A BLIZZARD WARNING MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. FALLING AND BLOWING SNOW WITH STRONG WINDS AND POOR VISIBILITIES ARE LIKELY. THIS WILL LEAD TO WHITEOUT CONDITIONS, MAKING TRAVEL EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. DO NOT TRAVEL.

IF YOU MUST TRAVEL, HAVE A WINTER SURVIVAL KIT WITH YOU. IF YOU GET STRANDED, STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE.

Governors state of emergency declaration

Governor of PA:

My fellow Pennsylvanians,

We have been following the details of the winter storm development and ongoing fuel shortages throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it has become very clear that we are in an emergency situation. Early this morning, I signed an executive order declaring Pennsylvania in a state of emergency. This destructive winter storm has brought record snowfalls, high winds, freezing temperatures, and blizzard like conditions to many counties, causing widespread outages. The situation has been worsened by the truck accident which disabled electricity production at several key natural gas power plants earlier this week.

The snow is falling not in inches but in feet. We're still expecting high wind gusts. Very, very high wind gusts. Shelters are being opened and we're activating the National Guard to help evacuate and shelter people who find themselves without power.

We do not have the capacity to deal with this disaster alone. The White House has approved federal resources to assist the Commonwealth's response efforts. We will also be working with our neighboring States to coordinate response efforts and ensure supplies can be transported to the hardest hit areas.

We are facing an extraordinary problem in electricity outages and gas supply for heating homes. As the heavy snow and high winds continue, we are aggressively preparing in our State. We Pennsylvanians are hardy folk and Pennsylvania will be ready.

Breaking News.

Early this morning, a large tractor trailer driving on extremely icy roads crashed into a vital gas distribution station, causing severe damage and cutting off gas supply to several natural gas power plants in Pennsylvania and Ohio. The damage is causing widespread electricity outages, which may persist for a few days due to the severe weather in the area. Affected areas include Pittsburgh and portions of northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania.

Reports indicate that the driver of the tractor trailer fell asleep at the wheel,

after a 28 hour nonstop shift, and then careened off an icy road into the natural gas distribution system. The recent truckers strike is depleting the supply of available drivers, causing them to be on the road for longer amounts of time. We contacted the trucking company of the driver at fault, Northeast Delivery, but they had no comment.

Authorities are asking residents to conserve power and remain indoors. Utilities are currently working hard to restore power and additional crews are on standby.