	WASHINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES			
	EMS Clinical Notification			
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 09, 2024	NUMBER: 010924-OPS	TYPE: Operational	REPLACES: None	PAGE: 1 OF 1
EMS Medical Director: DR. JESSE BOHRER-CLANCY, MD		TITLE: MODIFIED EMS OPERATIONS FOR JANUARY, 2024 SEVERE WEATHER EVENT		

Hi!

The Portland metropolitan region is currently forecasted to experience severe winter weather that may continue through Sunday, January 14, 2024. WCEMS agencies have been authorized to transition to "modified operations", based on current weather conditions.

- The goal of our actions is to ensure the highest quality prehospital patient care for patients with life threatening conditions by increasing resource availability and decreasing the number of patients transported to the hospital with lower acuity complaints. AMR is authorized to transport to the closest hospital (activated by AMR supervisor, confirmed by WCEMS).
- Operational decisions and ambulance coordination during MEO events will be predicated by Washington County EMS Operations protocol 80.200.
- Ambulance Coordination – Major Emergencies/Modified EMS Ops (80.200):
 - Activation of modified EMS Operations (MEO) is under the authority of WCEMS and is generally done in consultation with EMS leadership as well as EMS system stakeholders. In a catastrophic event, MEO implementation may be concurrent with making outreach to WCEMS for formal authorization. Any member of the EMS community (first responders, WCCCA, emergency management, or law enforcement) may request implementation of MEO. Requests are to be made to WCEMS via the WCEMS Program Supervisor or their designee.

Thank you for all that you do!

Jesse Bohrer-Clancy, MD
Associate EMS Medical Director



Active Weather Week: Cascades Blizzard Tue-Wed, Lowland Snow Tuesday Night, Colder Temperatures Late Week

KEY POINTS

- Heaviest Cascades snow event so far this season expected Tuesday through Wednesday (Jan 9-10). Heavy snow above 1500-2000 feet with high winds and blizzard conditions expected above 3000 feet.
- Areas of lowland snow from Portland metro northward Tuesday night into Wednesday morning (Jan 9-10).
- High Surf and Coastal Flooding Tuesday through Wednesday (Jan 9-10) due to active weather pattern along with high astronomical tides.
- Coldest temperatures so far this season possible beginning Friday morning (Jan 12) through at least Monday (Jan 15). However, uncertainty remains high in just how cold it will be and how long the cold temperatures will last.
- Areas of lowland snow possible Friday into Saturday (Jan 12-13). Best chances for locations north of Albany, including the Portland/Vancouver metro.

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING

- Increased potential of lowland snow for tonight/early Wednesday, Portland metro area northward
- Winds removed from Tuesday

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

Risk levels incorporate potential impacts from weather hazards and likelihood of occurrence for a reasonable worse case scenario.

	Tue 1/9	Wed 1/10	Thu 1/11	Fri 1/12	Sat 1/13	Sun 1/14	Mon 1/15
Coastal Areas Pacific south to Lane County	Thunderstorms Coastal Flooding High Surf	Tidal Overflow High Surf	Tidal Overflow	Tidal Overflow Cold Snow	Tidal Overflow Cold Snow	Cold Snow	Cold
Coast Range and Willapa Hills Including Vernonia & Grand Ronde		Snow		Cold Snow	Cold Snow	Cold Snow	Cold
Lower Columbia & Cowlitz Valleys Including Kelso & Longview		Lowland Snow		Cold Lowland Snow	Cold Lowland Snow	Cold Snow	Cold
Portland/Vancouver Metro Area Including Gresham & Hillsboro		Lowland Snow		Cold Lowland Snow	Cold Lowland Snow	Cold Snow	Cold
Willamette Valley Including Salem, McMinnville, Eugene, & Corvallis				Cold Lowland Snow	Cold Lowland Snow	Cold Snow	Cold
Columbia Gorge & Hood River Valley Including Cascade Locks & Hood River		Lowland Snow	Snow	Very Cold Snow	Very Cold Snow	Very Cold Snow	Very Cold
Cascade Valleys & Foothills Elevations below 2,500 ft including Sandy, Detroit & Oakridge	Heavy Snow Strong Winds	Heavy snow Blowing Snow Strong Winds	Snow	Cold Snow	Cold Snow	Cold Snow	Cold
Cascades Including Government Camp & Santiam Pass	Heavy Snow Blowing Snow High Winds	Heavy Snow Blowing Snow High Winds	Snow	Very Cold Snow	Very Cold Snow	Very Cold Snow	Very Cold
Coastal Waters	Strong Gales Hazardous Seas Thunderstorms	Gales Hazardous Seas	Hazardous Seas				

Risk Levels

Little to None

Minor

Moderate

Major

Extreme

DETAILS

Cascades, Cascade Valleys & Foothills



Mountain Snow

Impacts:

- Dangerous travel conditions due to a combination of heavy snow, strong winds, and blowing snow, with whiteout conditions at times. Blizzard conditions expected Tuesday through Wednesday.

Timing:

- Tuesday through Wednesday (Jan 9-10) - extreme to high risk
- Wednesday through Sunday (Jan 11-14) - low risk

Confidence:

- High through Wednesday
- Moderate Thursday through the weekend

Tuesday through Wednesday

- Snow accumulations of 1 to 4 feet Tuesday through Wednesday night with winds gusting to 55-75 mph at times. Heaviest snow and strongest winds Tuesday through Tuesday night.
- Snow levels 1500 - 2500 feet, highest amounts above 3000 feet.
- Snow rates up to 1-2 inches at times.

Thursday through Sunday

- Snow levels 1500 feet with light to moderate accumulation at times.
- See attached graphics for snowfall probabilities and amounts.



Cold

Impacts:

- Bitter cold wind chills will increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia.

Timing:

- Friday through Monday (Jan 12-15), possibly longer

Confidence:

- Low

- Large degree of uncertainty in forecast models, but about half suggest bitter cold daytime and nighttime temperatures and wind chills for the Cascades as early as Friday (Jan 12).
- Wind chills may be as low as -20°F for the higher ski resort elevations.

Portland/Vancouver Metro Area, Willamette Valley, Lower Columbia & Cowlitz Valleys



Lowland Snow

Impacts:

- Slick, snow covered roads

Timing:

- Tuesday night through Wednesday morning (Jan 9-10)
- Friday through Saturday (Jan 12-13)

Confidence:

- Low to moderate for lowlands, but moderate to high for higher elevations and areas north of Portland.

Tuesday night through Wednesday morning

- The low will move across the Portland metro area, with snow to the north of the low, as well as the higher terrain around the low's track.
- Based on the track of the low, accumulating snow will be generally across most of the lowlands of the Lower Columbia, Clark County, and the Cowlitz River Valley. As such, most areas will see 1 to 2 inches of wet snow, with a few spots possibly receiving up to 3 or 4 inches. Areas across the Portland area will see 1 to 3 inches of snow in the higher terrain (above 500 feet), with less than a half inch possible down to lowest elevations.
- Less than 10% chance of any sticking snow north of Salem (except on Chehalem Mountains).
- Best chance for timing of majority of snowfall is around 10 pm Tuesday through 5 AM Wednesday, though rain/snow mix could continue later into Wednesday morning.

Friday through Saturday

- 20-40% chance of 1 inch of snow or more for Willamette Valley locations and the lowlands of southwest Washington sometime between late Friday through early Sunday (Jan 12-14).
- Best chance for snow is currently Friday night-Saturday morning (Jan 12-13) north of Salem.
- Chances of heavy lowland snow (4" or more) are 10-20%, mainly north of Salem.
- Snow may transition to freezing rain for a brief time, with minor accumulations on elevated surfaces, such as cars, power lines and decks.

- See attached graphics for additional information



Cold

Impacts:

- Cold temperatures could impact those without adequate heating. Sensitive plants left outdoors may be damaged or killed.

Timing:

- Friday through at least Monday (Jan 12-15)

Confidence:

- Moderate

- Latest guidance suggests a 50-80% chance of overnight temperatures and 20-50% chance of daytime temperatures falling into the 20s or colder.
- Coldest temperatures will be in outlying areas with a 30% chance of these areas such as Battle Ground, Veneta, and Forest Grove falling below 10°F.
- Less than a 10% chance downtown Portland or Eugene will fall below 10°F.
- Coldest temperatures appear likely to occur Friday or Saturday night (night of Jan 12 or 13).
- See attached graphic for temperature probabilities.

Columbia River Gorge and Hood River Valley



Snow

Impacts:

- Slick roads due to light snow or freezing rain Monday, then snow possible again beginning Wednesday.

Timing:

- Tuesday night through Sunday (Jan 9-14).

Confidence:

- High

- Light snow Tuesday night into Wednesday morning with snow levels above 2500 Tuesday, falling to 1000 - 1500 feet by Wednesday.

- Colder temperatures Friday into the weekend will cause snow levels to lower to river level.

- See attached graphics for snowfall probabilities and amounts.



Cold

Impacts:

- Bitter cold wind chills will increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia.

Timing:

- Friday through at least Monday (Jan 12-15)

Confidence:

- Moderate

- 40-70% chance of overnight temperatures below 10°F in Hood River.

- 20-30% chance of overnight temperatures below 10°F in Corbett.

- 70-90% chance of daytime temperatures below 32°F and 50-80% chance of daytime temperatures falling into the 20s.

- East winds will eventually increase late next week or next weekend, potentially pushing wind chills below zero.

Coastal Areas

Sneaker Waves

Impacts:

- Waves can run up significantly farther on a beach than normal, potentially knocking beachgoers off their feet and quickly pulling them into the frigid ocean.

Timing:

- Tuesday through Wednesday (Jan 9-10)

Confidence:

- High

- Elevated risk of sneaker waves.



Coastal Flooding

Impacts:

- Increasing potential of coastal flooding due to storm surge and high astronomical tides.

Timing:

- Tuesday-Sunday (Jan. 9-14)

Confidence:

- Moderate

- Active weather pattern will lead to building storm surge during a period of high astronomical tides.
- Highest tides will occur around the late morning or midday hours. This is when the risk of coastal flooding will be highest.
- Main concern for coastal flooding is currently around high tides Tuesday and Wednesday (Jan 9-10), likely impacting portions of US101 that are most susceptible to tidal overflow flooding.



High Surf

Impacts:

- Destructive waves may wash over beaches, jetties, and other structures unexpectedly. People can be swept off rocks and jetties and drown while observing high surf.
- Severe beach erosion may destroy coastal properties and buildings.

Timing:

- Tuesday through Wednesday (Jan 9-10)

Confidence:

- High

- Breakers possibly as high as 25-35 feet Tuesday through Tuesday night (70% chance).
- Highest tides will occur around midday, which is when waves will run up the furthest along beaches.



Thunderstorms

Impacts:

- Thunderstorms may produce small graupel, brief periods of heavy rain, and gusty winds.

Timing:

- Tuesday (Jan 9)

Confidence:

- Medium

- Stronger showers or thunderstorms will have the potential to produce small graupel up to the size of peas, brief periods of heavy rain, and brief wind gusts of 35-50 mph.
- Each storm should only produce a handful of lightning strikes.

Coastal Waters

Gales

Impacts:

- Gale Force Winds to Hazardous Seas

Timing:

- Tuesday through Thursday (Jan 9-11)

Confidence:

- High

- Strongest winds through Tuesday afternoon (Jan 9) and again early Wednesday morning through Wednesday afternoon (Jan 10).
- Tuesday: 100% chance Gale Force Winds.
- Wednesday: 70-90% chance of Gale Force Winds
- Seas building to 20-30 ft Tuesday (Jan 9), falling into the upper teens Wednesday (Jan 10), then to the lower teens Thursday.



Thunderstorms

Impacts:

- Thunderstorms may produce lightning and gusty outflow winds.

Timing:

- Tuesday (Jan 9)

Confidence:

- Moderate

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the latest forecast updates, visit weather.gov/portland.

If you have questions or would like to submit weather reports, photos, or to unsubscribe from these briefings, email nws.portland@noaa.gov or call (503) 326-2340.

GRAPHICS

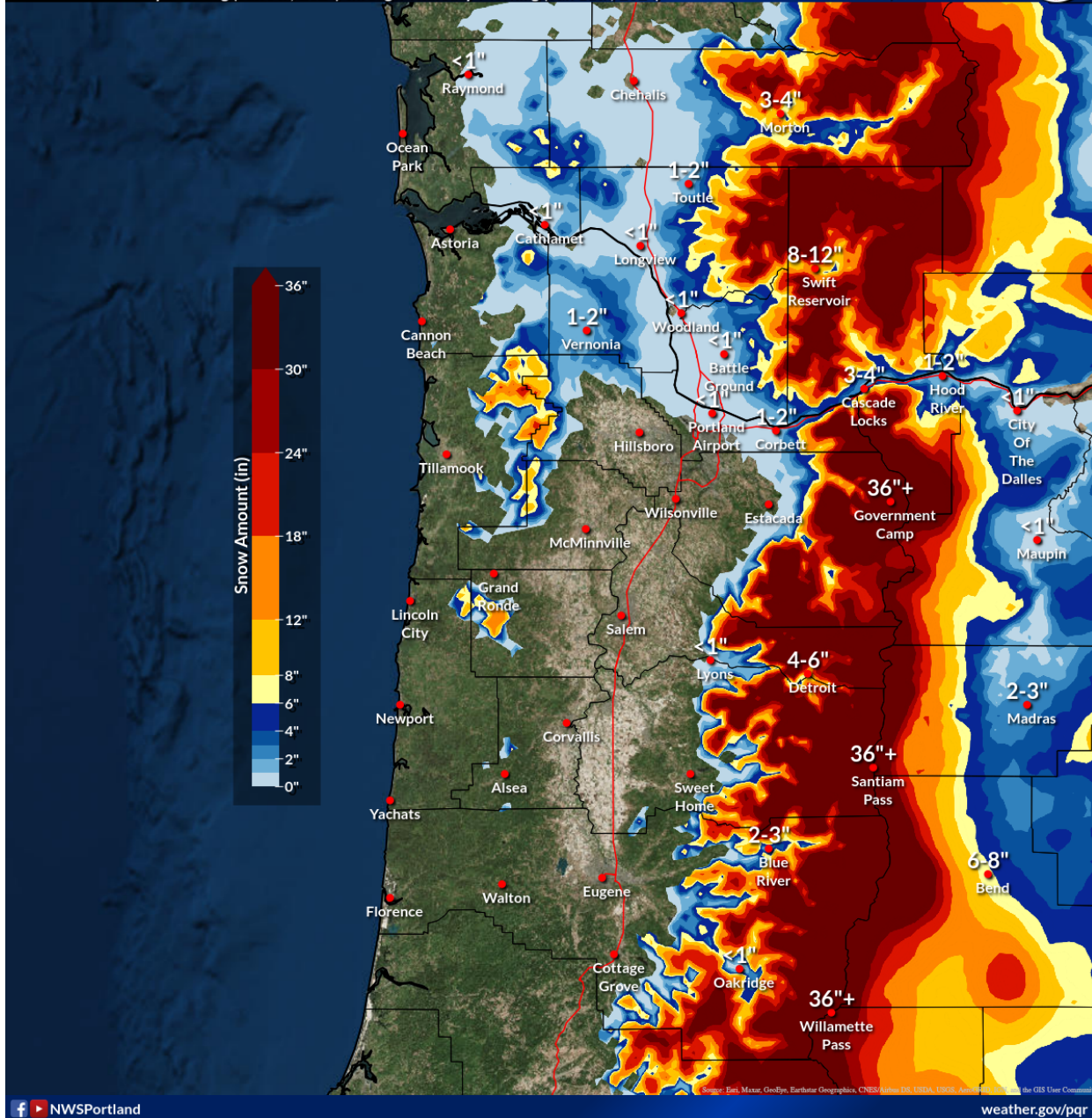
Storm Total Snow

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR



Time Frame: Tuesday Morning (Jan 9th, 2024) through Thursday Morning (Jan 11th, 2024)

Issued Jan 09, 2024 5:23 AM PST



Tuesday Night Snow Totals

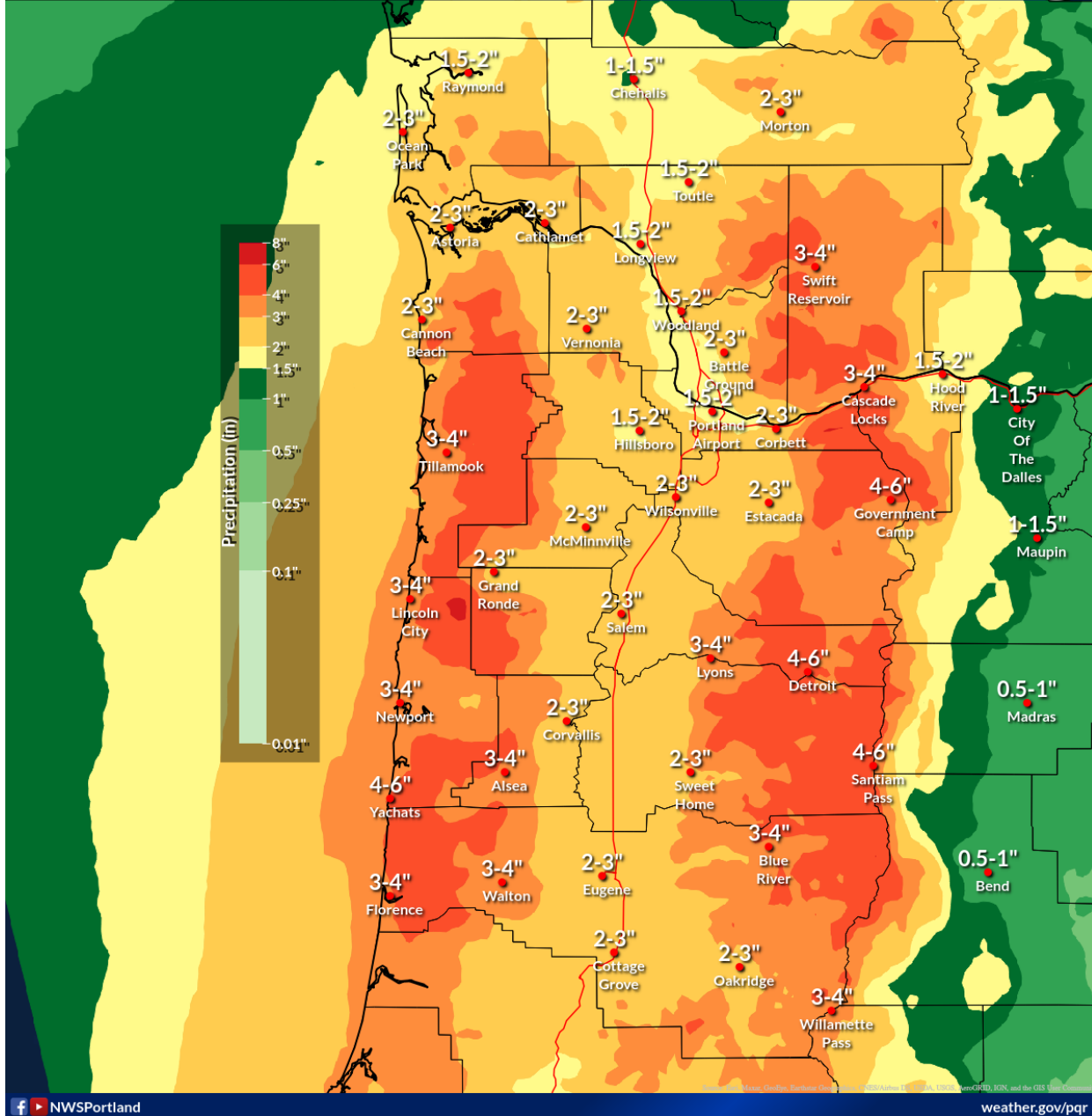
Storm Total Precipitation/QPF

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR



Time Frame: Friday Morning (Jan 12th, 2024) through Sunday Morning (Jan 14th, 2024)

Issued Jan 09, 2024 5:41 AM PST



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Weekend QPF Totals

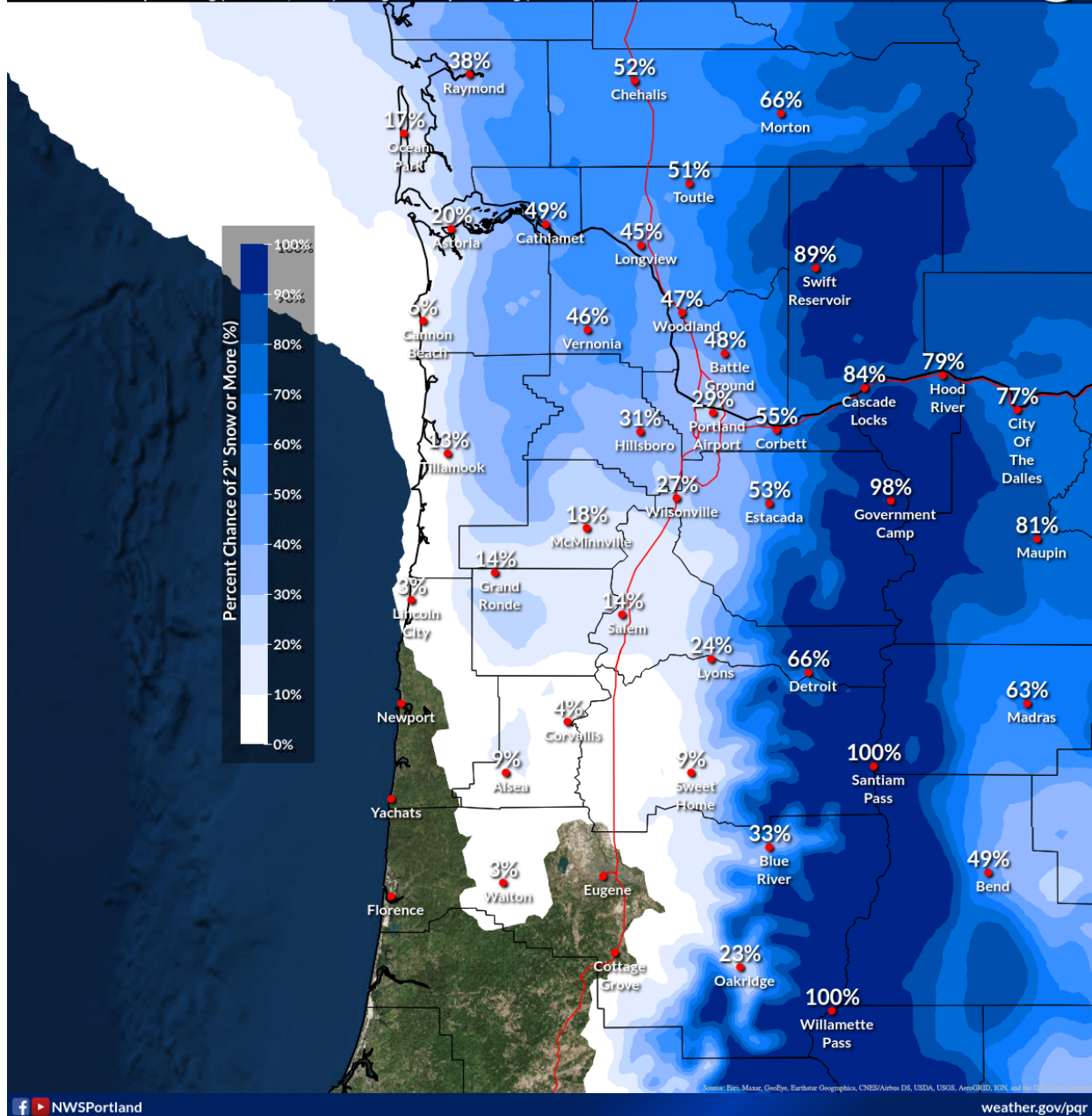
Probability of 2 inch of Snow or greater over 48 hours

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR



Time Frame: Friday Morning (Jan 12th, 2024) through Sunday Morning (Jan 14th, 2024)

Issued Jan 09, 2024 5:47 AM PST



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Weekend Snow Probabilities

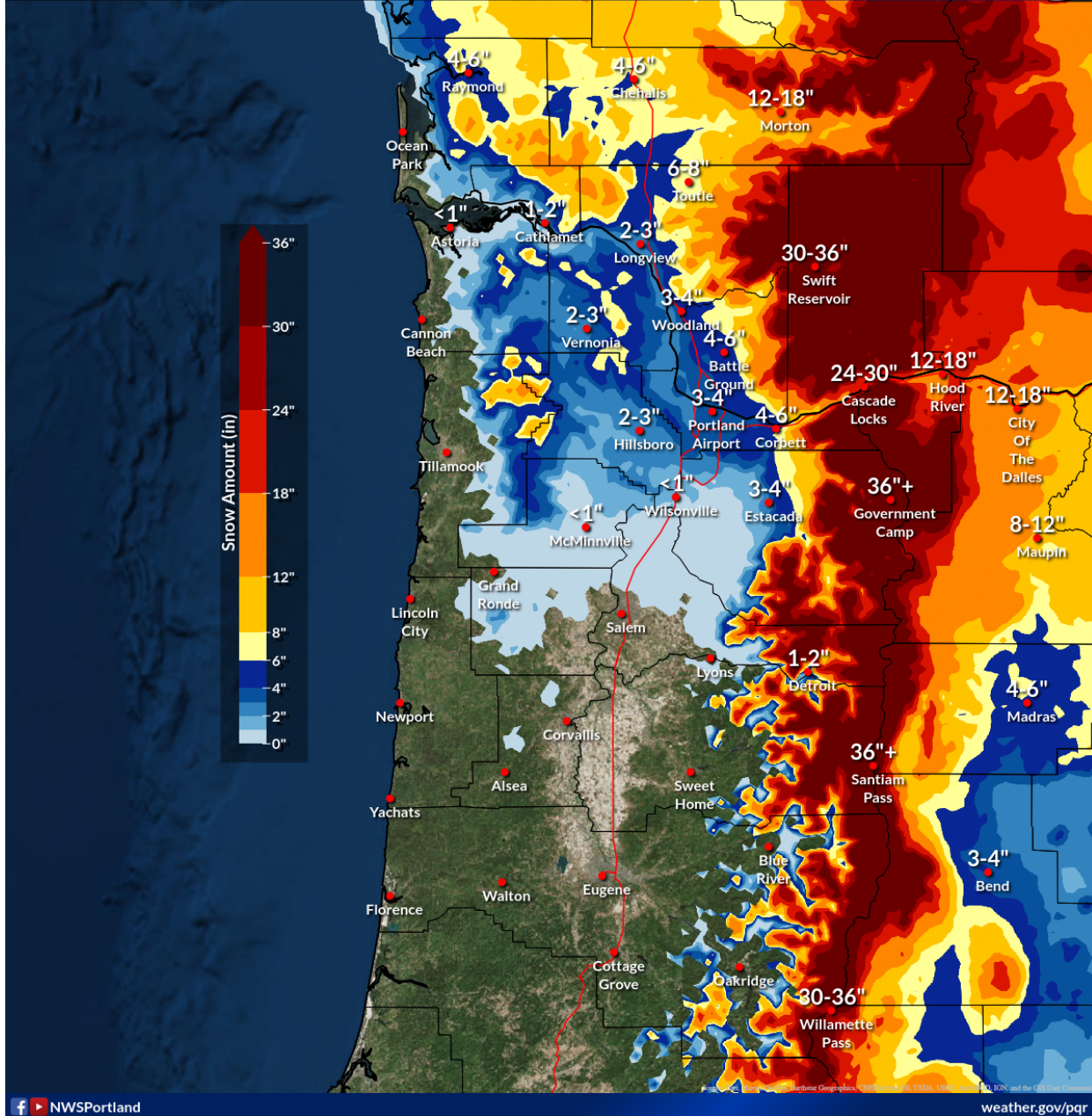
Storm Total Snow

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR



Time Frame: Friday Morning (Jan 12th, 2024) through Sunday Morning (Jan 14th, 2024)

Issued Jan 09, 2024 5:40 AM PST



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Weekend Snow Totals

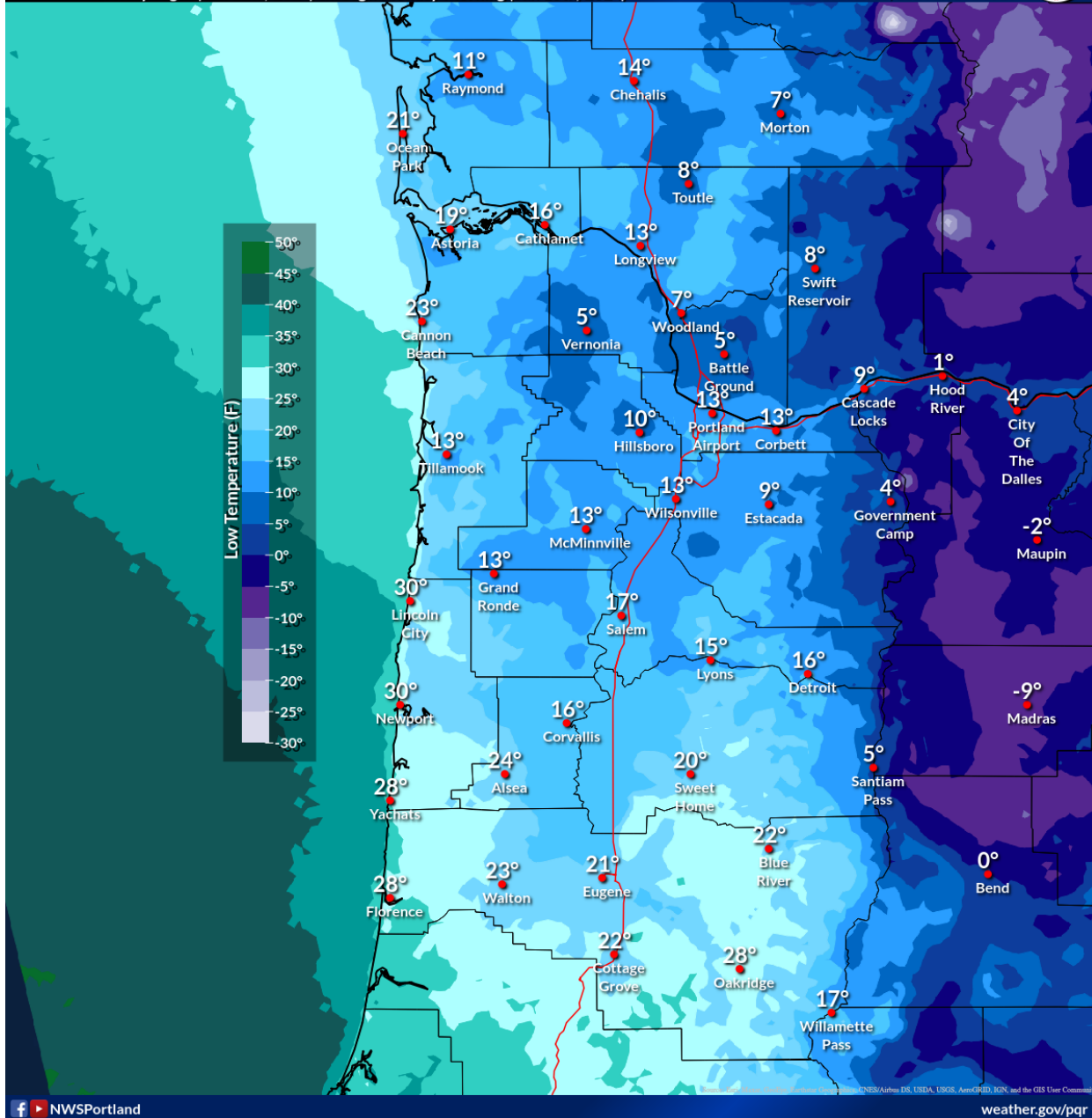
Coldest Temperatures Expected (Worst Case/ Lowest 25th Percentile)

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR



Time Frame: Friday Night (Jan 12th, 2024) through Monday Morning (Jan 15th, 2024)

Issued Jan 09, 2024 5:30 AM PST



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Weekend Worst Case Temperatures

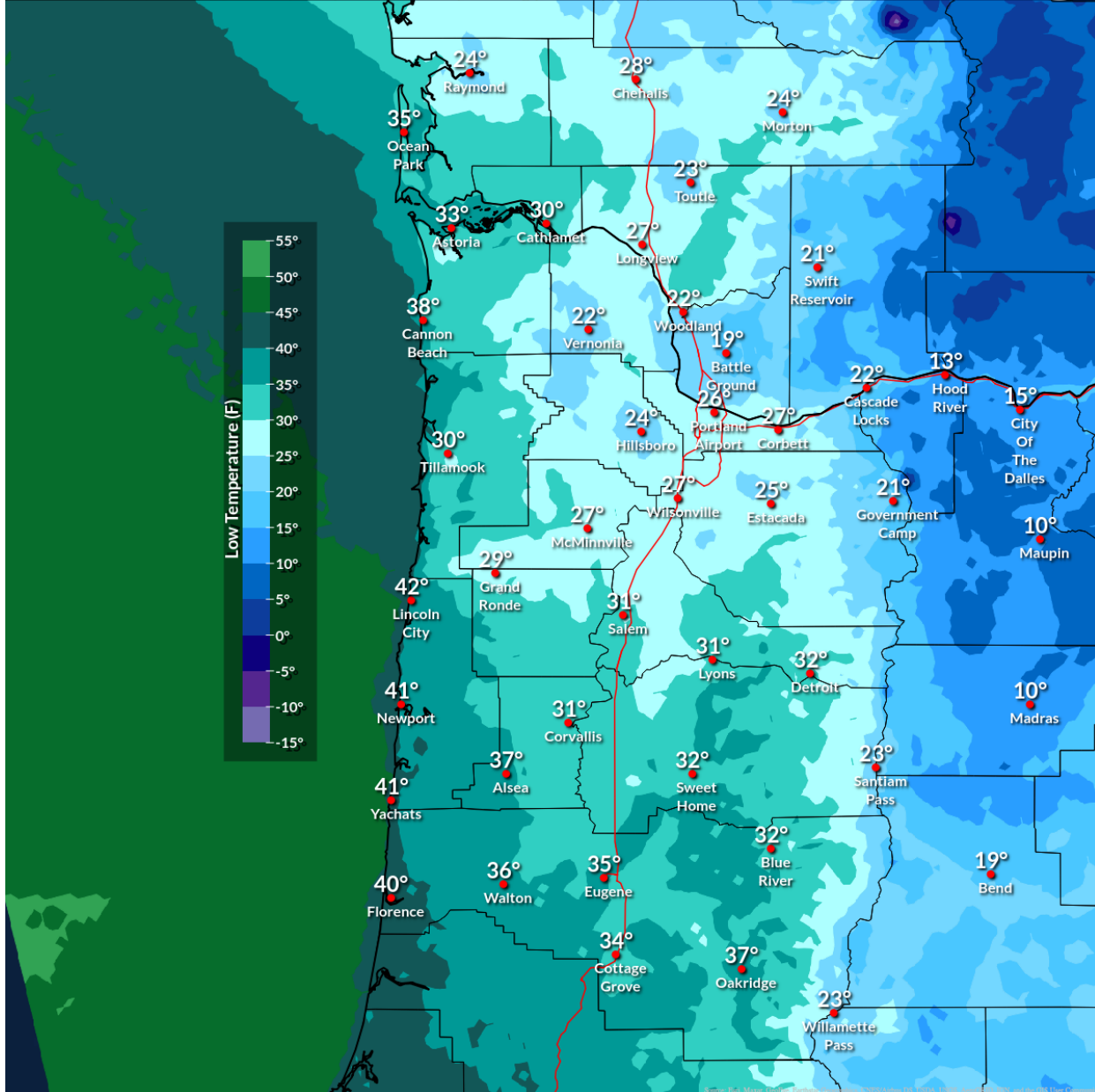
Coldest Temperatures Expected (Best Case/ Highest 75th Percentile)

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR



Time Frame: Friday Morning (Jan 12th, 2024) through Monday Morning (Jan 15th, 2024)

Issued Jan 09, 2024 5:34 AM PST



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Weekend Best Case Temperatures