



# NOAA's National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ



Issued: Friday, January 22, 2016 – 5 PM  
Next Briefing Package: by 10 AM Saturday January 23, 2016

## Summary

**A crippling and potentially historic east coast snow storm will lead to blizzard conditions and major coastal flooding for portions of the area this weekend.**

## Changes

- **Blizzard Warnings now include all of Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties in southeast PA, as well as Kent County DE. Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, Warren, Morris counties remain under a Winter Storm Warning, not a Blizzard Warning as mentioned in the 4 PM briefing package.**
- **Snowfall amounts have been increased in most areas, particularly the I-95 corridor, where several additional inches are expected.**
- **Widespread major coastal flooding is now expected for Cape May, Sussex, and Kent (DE) counties during the Saturday morning high tide.**

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Blizzard Warning



Scranton

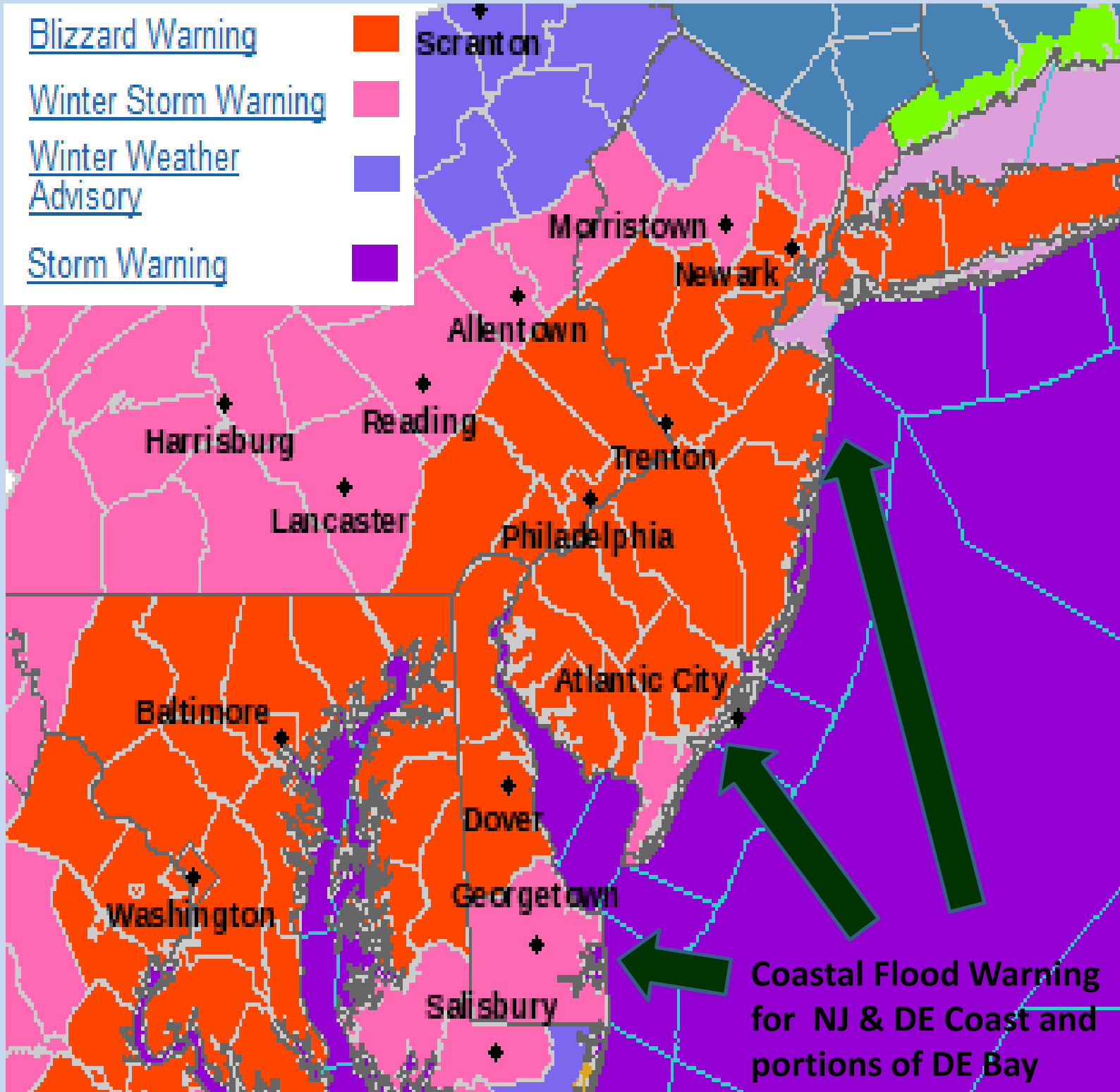
Winter Storm Warning



Winter Weather Advisory



Storm Warning



**Coastal Flood Warning  
for NJ & DE Coast and  
portions of DE Bay**

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## Hazards and Impacts

- **Snowfall will overspread the region, and is expected to impact the Friday evening commute in the Philadelphia – Wilmington metropolitan corridor. Accumulation of 1-2 inches possible in this time frame.**
- **The combination of heavy snow and gusty winds will make for white out conditions in the Blizzard Warning area, with roads becoming impassible, especially with snowfall rates of 1 to 3 inches per hour at times.**
- **Power outages possible due to heavy snow and/or wind.**
- **Widespread coastal flooding with property damage and road closures is expected, especially at times of high tide Saturday morning, Saturday night, and Sunday morning.**
- **Heavy and wet snow may be difficult to plow and shovel, especially for those with physical ailments.**

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## Snowfall Highlights

- **Blizzard Warning in effect for the I-95 corridor, eastern shore of MD, and portions of coastal NJ and DE. Outside of this area, a Winter Storm Warning is in effect, except for the Poconos and far northwest NJ, where a Winter Weather Advisory is in effect.**
- **Snowfall ranging from 12-22 inches is expected...with lesser amounts near the coast, in the Poconos, and far northwest NJ. There is the potential for localized amounts of snowfall in excess of 2 feet in the I-95 corridor. A tight gradient in snowfall amounts is forecast between I-78 and I-80, as well as closer to the DE and NJ coast.**

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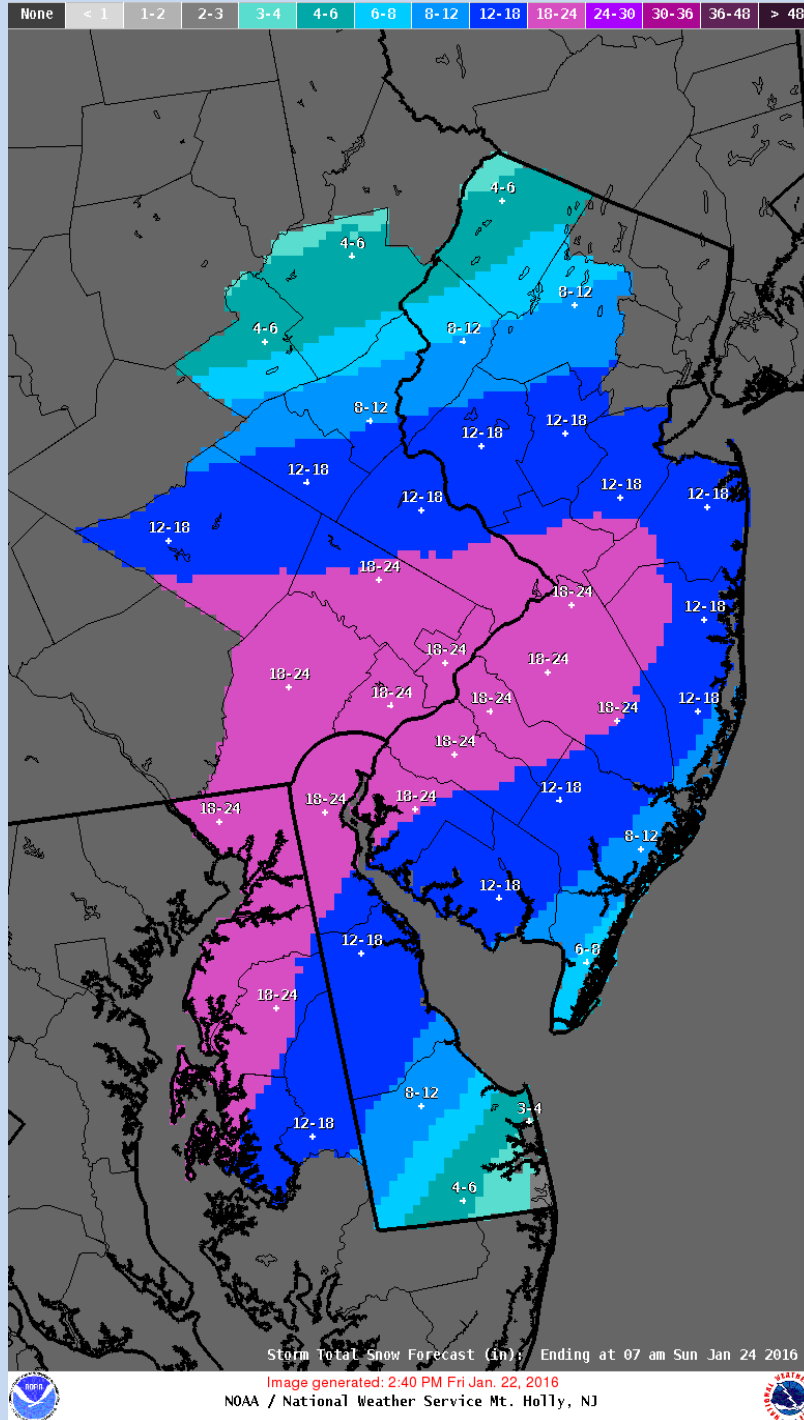


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**Most likely Snowfall accumulations**  
[www.weather.gov/phi/winter](http://www.weather.gov/phi/winter)

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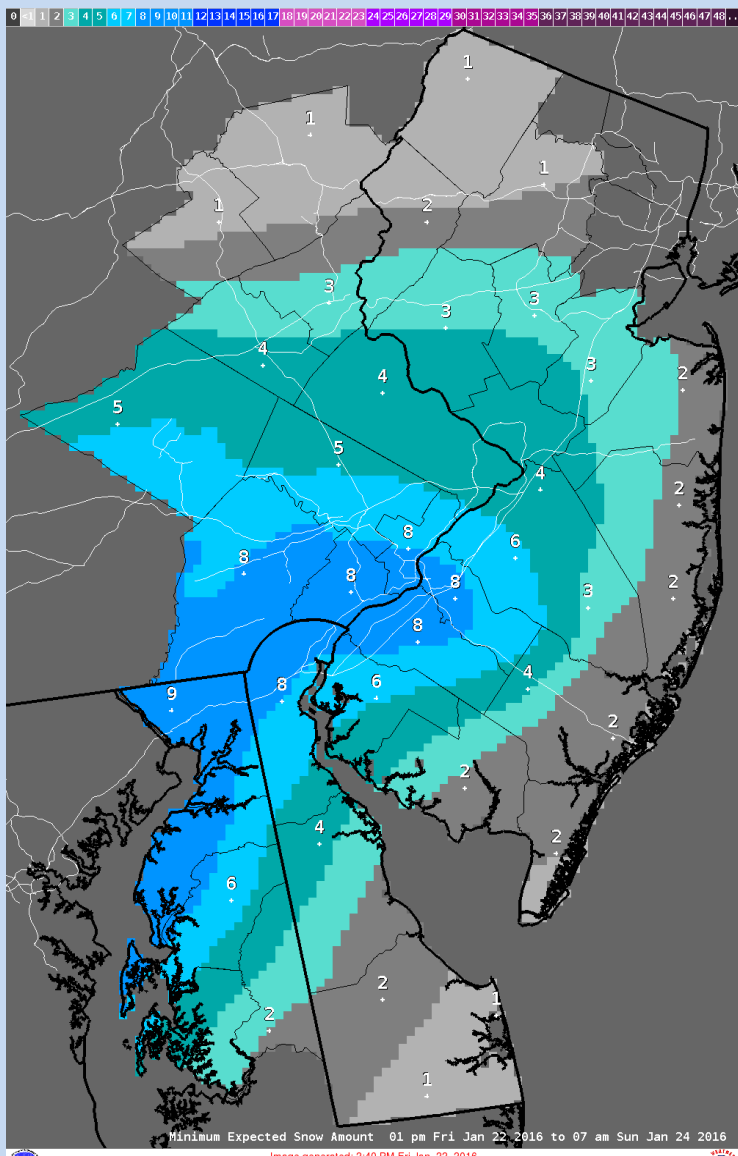
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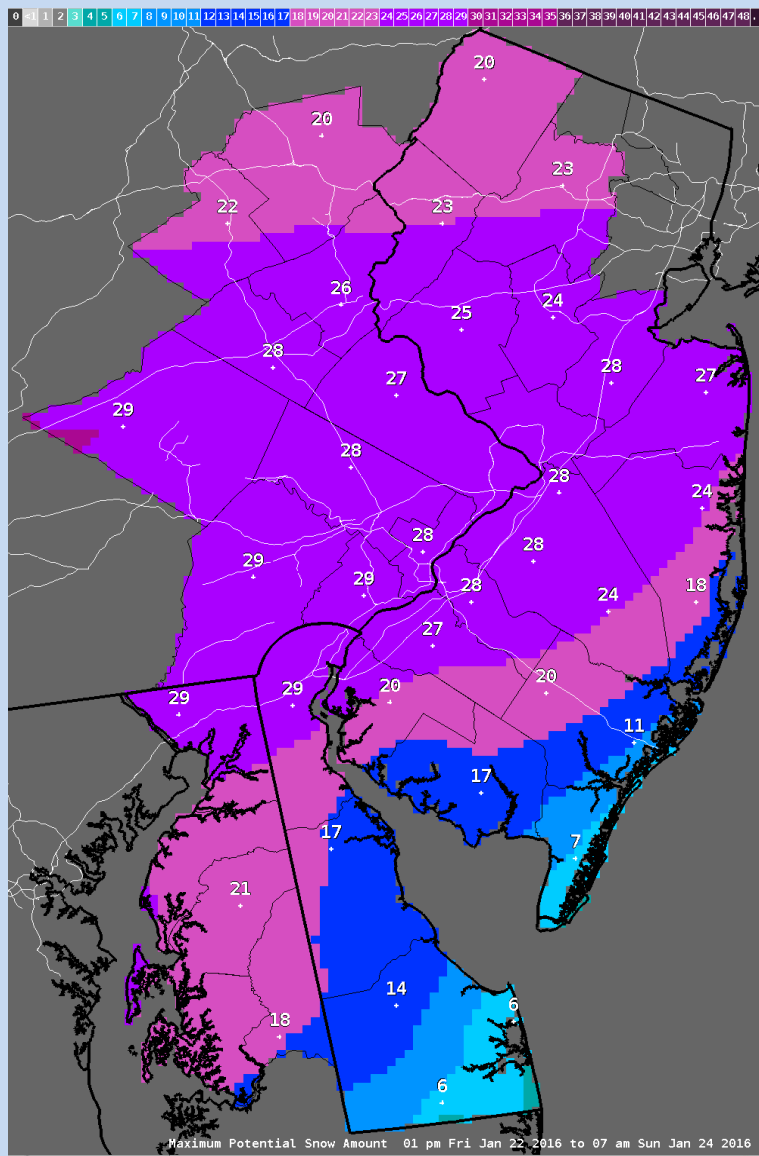
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### Minimum Snow Forecast



### Maximum Snow Forecast

These two maps provide reasonable estimates of possible minimum (left) and maximum (right) snowfall amounts from this event based on statistical analysis of model guidance. They are experimental and do **not** represent the official NWS forecast. Larger images are available at [www.weather.gov/phi/winter](http://www.weather.gov/phi/winter)

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## Coastal Flooding Highlights

- **A strong onshore flow will persist through three high tide cycles from Saturday morning through Sunday morning, and lead to coastal flooding along the DE and NJ coast, as well as Delaware Bay.**
- **In particular, widespread major coastal flooding is now expected for Cape May, Sussex, and Kent (DE) Counties during the Saturday morning high tide.**
- **Elsewhere, moderate with pockets of major coastal and back bay flooding is expected along the DE and NJ coasts this weekend, including Delaware Bay.**
- **Flooding is not expected along the Chesapeake Bay north of Cambridge.**

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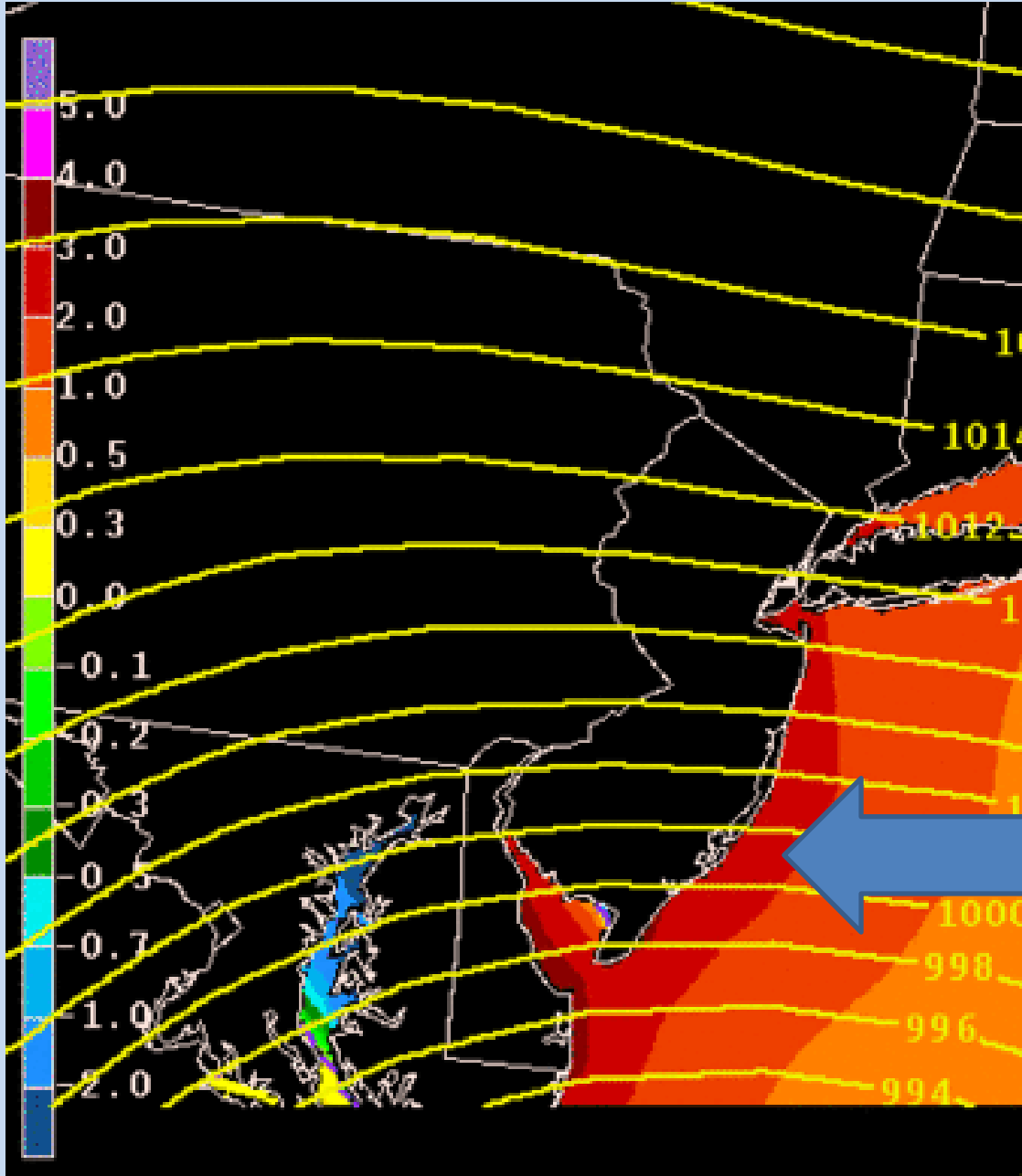


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Tidal Departures at 7 PM Saturday (around high tide). Note 2-3 FT departures along the coast and portions of Delaware Bay (bright red). These departures will also be present for the Saturday morning high tide.

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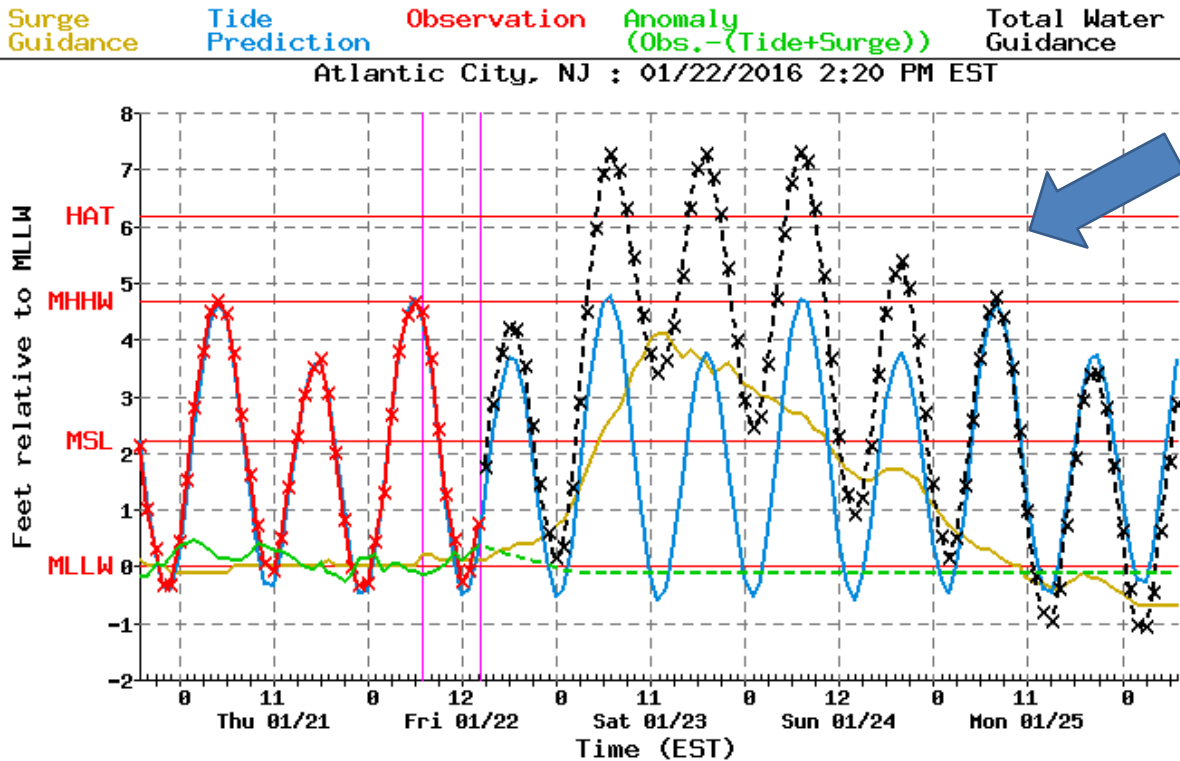


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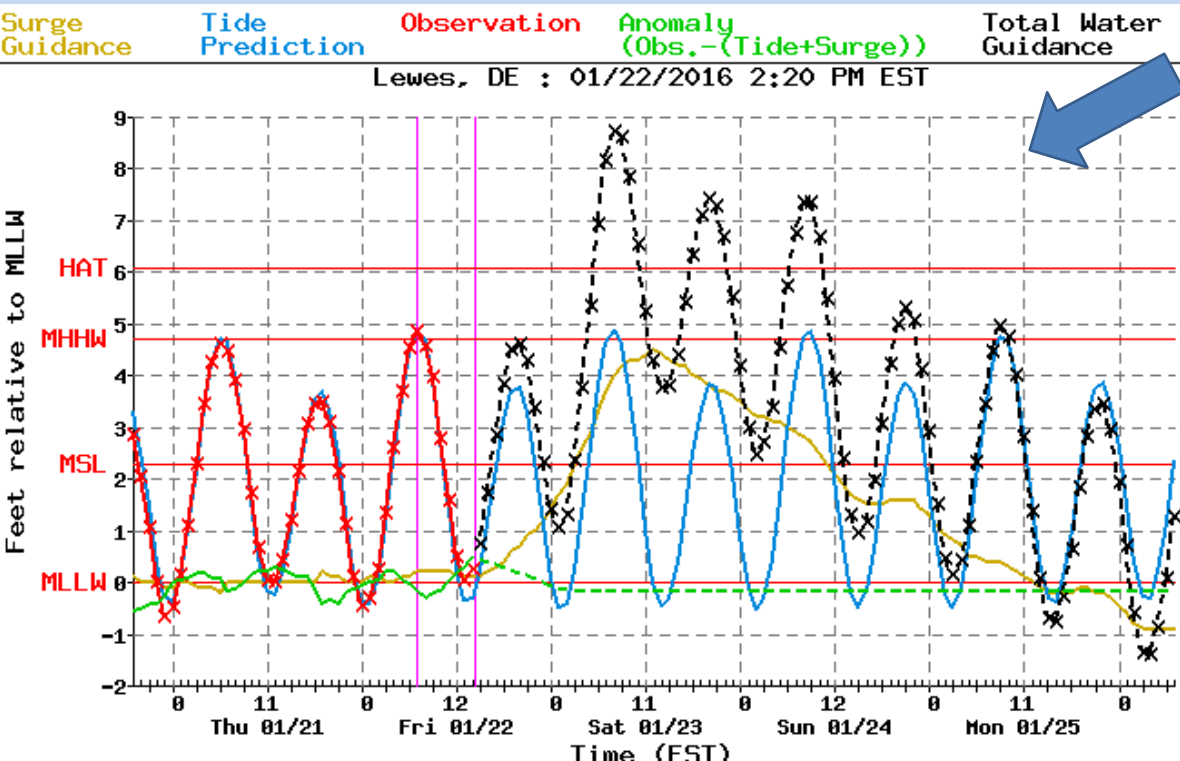


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These charts show the potential for moderate to major coastal and back bay flooding with the high tides Saturday morning through Sunday morning (3 high tides). Total water levels are expected to be slightly higher in the south, such as Lewes (bottom graph) vs. Atlantic City (top graph).



Coastal flooding is not expected along the Chesapeake Bay north of Cambridge.

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## Wind Highlights

- **Strong northeast winds gusting over 60 mph are expected near the coast from Friday night into early Sunday morning. High Wind Warnings are in effect for these areas. Northeast wind gusts in the 30 to 45 mph expected further inland.**
- **On the coastal waters including Delaware Bay, strong northeast winds gusting between 50 and 60 knots are expected. A Storm Warning is in effect for these areas from late Friday night through Sunday morning.**

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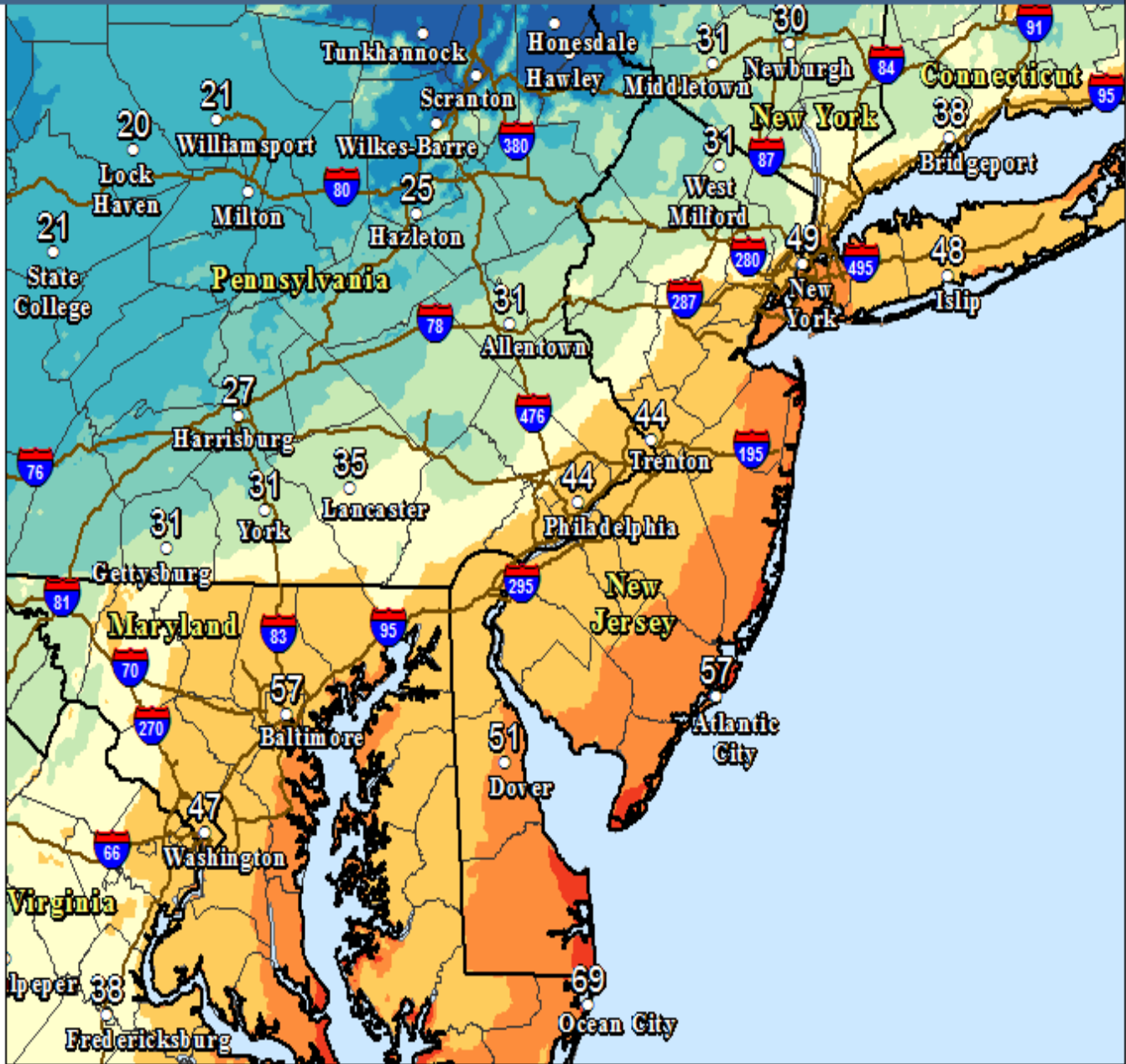
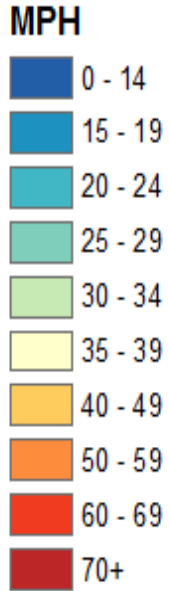
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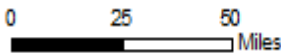
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## Maximum Wind Gust - Through January 24, 2016 4:00 PM ET



Created by the  
NWS Forecast Office  
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly



Source: NWS National  
Digital Forecast Database

Created: 01/22/2016 2000 UTC

## Maximum wind gusts (MPH) through 4 PM January 24, 2016

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- Our latest briefing package is available from our website at:
- [http://www.weather.gov/media/phi/current\\_briefing.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/media/phi/current_briefing.pdf)
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