



Special Weather Briefing

Issued: 5:51 AM MST Tuesday February 21, 2023

Event Overview

A powerful storm system will move across NM today through Wednesday with a variety of high impact weather. Southwest winds will strengthen today with gusts of 45 to 55 mph likely east of the central mountain chain. Rain and high terrain snow showers with isolated storms will spread north today then increase in coverage tonight. Snow levels will lower to near 6,500 feet by sunrise Wednesday as a potent cold front moves in from the west. Widespread extreme wind gusts of 65 to 85 mph are expected Wednesday. Periods of heavy snow will also impact western NM with blowing snow and near-whiteout conditions in the mountains. Damaging winds and blowing dust will create dangerous travel over eastern NM. This will be a very rare weather event.

Key Impacts

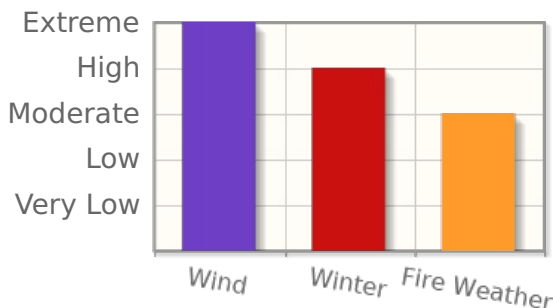
- Widespread wind gusts of 65 to 85 mph will topple trees and powerlines. Damage may occur to mobile homes, roofs, sheds, barns, outbuildings, fences, and roadway signs. Power outages are likely.
- Extreme crosswinds on area roadways may topple high profile vehicles including cargo trains. Blowing dust may lower visibility below 1/2 mile at times in dust prone areas. Road closures are possible.
- The combination of heavy snow, high winds, and blowing snow may result in whiteout conditions in the high terrain, especially around Catron and Lincoln counties. Road closures are possible.



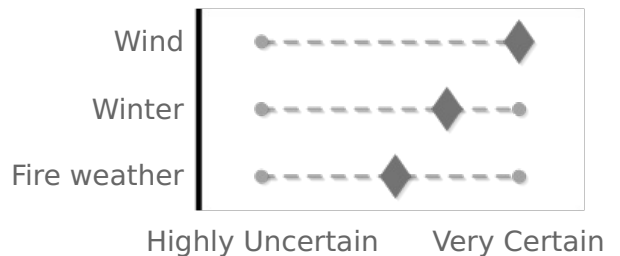
Timing

Strong southwest winds will increase today over eastern NM then spread to all high terrain areas overnight. Very strong to potentially damaging winds will become widespread Wednesday morning and peak Wednesday afternoon before subsiding Wednesday evening. Rain and high terrain snow showers will increase in coverage through tonight. Snow will become heavy at times as snow levels fall from west to east Wednesday morning. Whiteout conditions are possible in the high terrain Wednesday.

Hazard Impact Levels



Confidence in Hazard



Wind Travel Planner

	Tue 2/21	Wed 2/22	Thu 2/23
I-40 Arizona Border to Albuquerque	Very Low	High	Low
Highway 491 Shiprock to Gallup	Very Low	High	Low
Highway 550 Farmington to Bernalillo	Low	High	Moderate
Highways 84/285 Colorado Border to Santa Fe	Very Low	High	Low
I-25 Albuquerque to Socorro	Low	Extreme	Moderate
I-25 Colorado Border to Santa Fe	High	Extreme	Moderate
Highways 64/87 Cimarron to Clayton	High	Extreme	Moderate

I-40 Tijeras to Texas Border
Highway 285 Santa Fe to Roswell

High

Extreme

Moderate

High

Extreme

Moderate