

Snowfall Mapping Sources

Updated 12/5/16 / MTF

For the 2016-2017 snow season, NWS Chicago along with all of CR WFOs will continue using one primary source for creating forecast snowfall maps ahead of an event and observed maps after. This parent source is the CR Briefing Image Generator (BIG v2). At NWS Chicago, we have a means by which a BIG image is pulled into a PowerPoint slide preset with our branding, and this is recommended to most efficiently generate these snowfall maps. Although one can access the BIG and create a custom image if needed.

Forecast Prior to an Event

NWS CR Briefing Image Generator

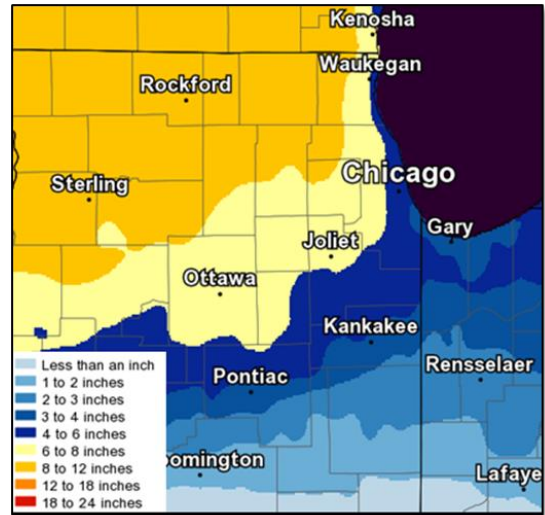
Location: intra.crh.noaa.gov/gis/b2.html

Time Period: User selectable. Includes the current six hour period.

Available: Updated between 7 and 10 a.m. twice an hour at :00 and :30.

Method to Save: Right click and Save Image.

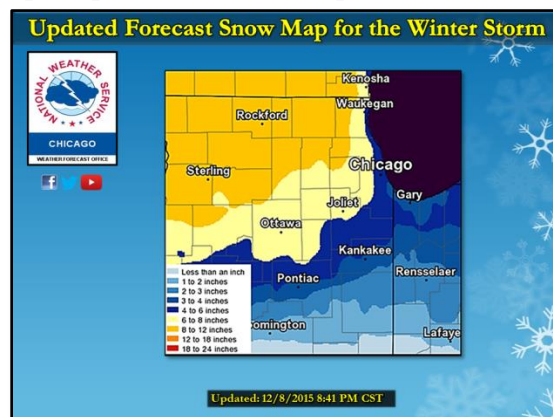
Note: This is internal so the link cannot be viewed off the NOAA network.



Efficient Method: There are also PowerPoint template slides with the BIG maps built in and auto-update once the file is opened, and will have our branding. These include in our DSS briefing slides, as well as individually (for Weather Stories & social media shares), which are located in:

M:\Wx Story\Templates\Winter Ops\WxStory Templates\Snowfall Forecasts.pptx

M:\Wx Story\Templates\Winter Ops\Top News and SM Graphics\Forecast Snowfall Map for Social Media.pptx



A forecast snowfall map to 48 hours from the BIG is also available on our web page and found on the [Weather Watcher Page](#), or the direct link to the graphic is [here](#). Our standard [pre-event top news headline template](#) uses this link/image.

Probabilistic and Percentile Forecasts Prior to an Event

This year WFO Chicago is participating in the Probabilistic Snow Experiment, with a dedicated web page highlighting 90th percentile, most likely (our forecast), 10th percentile, and more. This page is at www.weather.gov/lot/winter. See Eric's e-mails for more guidance. The below graphics on this page are now just for back-up purposes, and if you want to message this aspect, use our now local page.

WPC Probabilistic Winter Precipitation Guidance

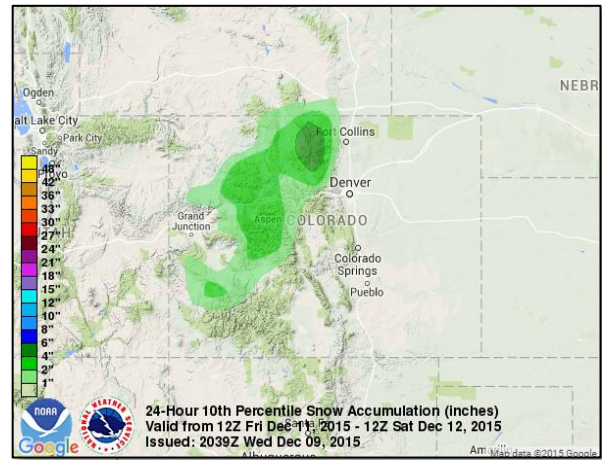
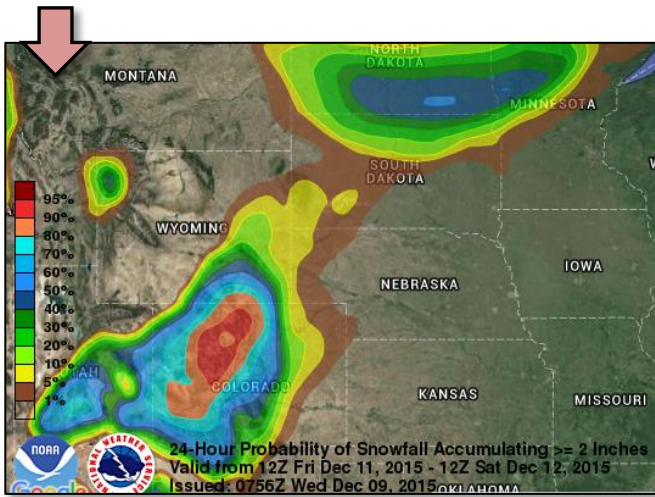
Location: http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/pwfp/wwd_accum_probs.php

Source: WPC WWD forecasts tailored to an ensemble spread of over 70 models/members.

Time Period: User selectable 24h periods.

Available: Updated twice a day.

Method to Save: Screen capture, or download gif or KML to Google Earth.



WPC Percentile Winter Precipitation Guidance

Location: www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/pwfp/wwd_accum_probs.php (same link as probabilistic)

Source: WPC WWD forecasts tailored to an ensemble spread of 70 models/members.

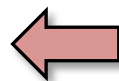
Time Period: User selectable and user selectable percentiles.

Available: Updated twice a day.

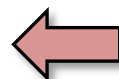
Interpretation: Percentile accumulations increase as the percentile level increases. For more, see [here](#).

Method to Save: Screen capture, or download gif or KML to Google Earth.

Note: Also available within the BIG and is recommended as it would have consistent map backgrounds with most of our other maps. An example of a slide that uses these can be seen below, and is found in *M:\Wx Story\Templates\Winter Ops\WxStory Templates\Snowfall Forecasts.pptx*



Maximum Snow Potential



Minimum Snow Potential

During an Event

Enhanced Data Display (EDD)

Location: preview.weather.gov/edd/ Direct snow LSR link: tinyurl.com/j3sugjz

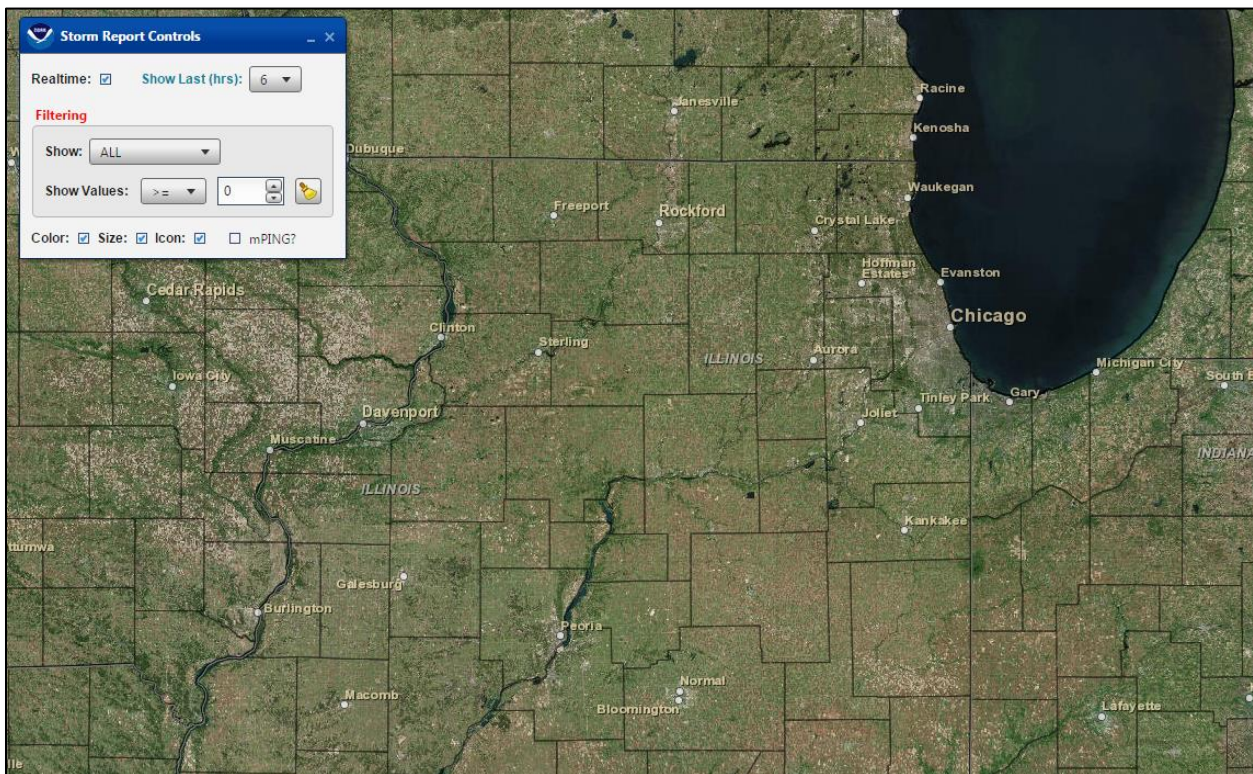
Source: LSRs

Time Period: User selectable.

Available: Updates shortly after LSR issuance.

Method to Save: Screen capture.

Note: This is inked on our current [pre/during event web template](#). This is also great for internal QC/awareness of our LSRs!



After an Event

NWS CR Briefing Image Generator

Location: intra.crh.noaa.gov/gis/b2.html

Source: NOHSRC official analysis using COOP & CoCoRaHS

Time Period: User selectable. Can go back daily for a week.

Available: Updated every 30 minutes starting at 14:10Z each morning.

Method to Save: Right click and Save Image.

Note: This is internal so the link cannot be viewed off of the NOAA network.



Efficient Method: There are also PowerPoint template slides with the BIG observed maps built in and auto-update once the file is opened, and will have our branding. These are located in:

M:\Wx Story\Templates\Winter Ops\Top News and SM Graphics\observed snowfall maps.pptx

Observed snowfall maps of 24, 48, and 72 hours from the BIG are also available on our web page courtesy of JoAnna. These update once an hour and are accessible by partners/public. They are found on the [Weather Watcher Page](#) or the direct links are:

www.weather.gov/images/lot/ifps/TotalSnow/Observed_SnowFall_24hrs.png

www.weather.gov/images/lot/ifps/TotalSnow/Observed_SnowFall_48hrs.png

www.weather.gov/images/lot/ifps/TotalSnow/Observed_SnowFall_72hrs.png

We have a [top news headline template](#) labeled ***Winter Event Summary*** that has the 48h graphic.

Other Partner & Public Options After an Event

National Snowfall Analysis for the Public

Location: www.weather.gov/crh/snowfall (external)

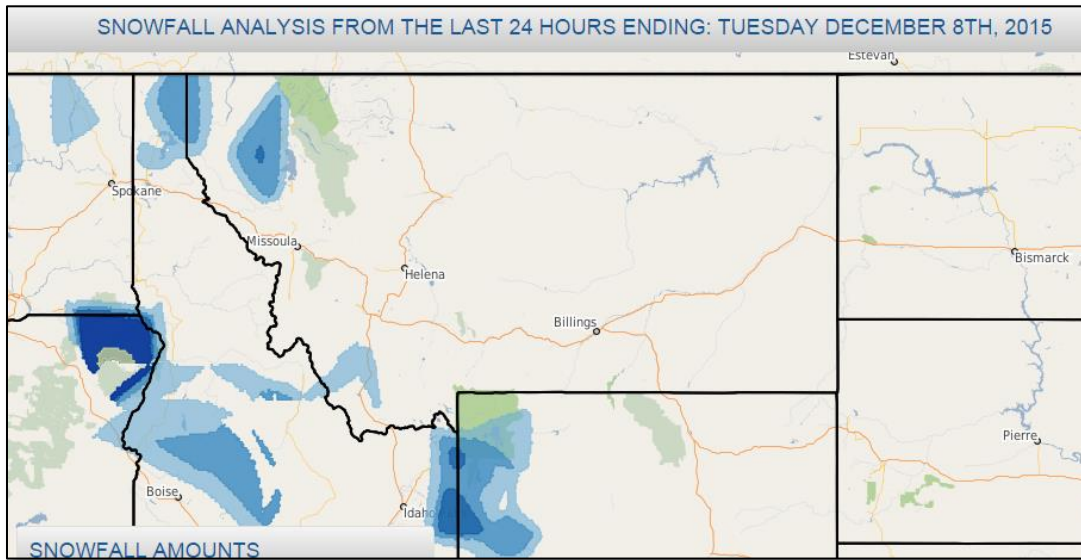
Can also be accessed by clicking Snowfall under Current Conditions on our webpage.

Source: NOHSRC official analysis using COOP & CoCoRaHS

Time Period: 24h, 48h, or 72h.

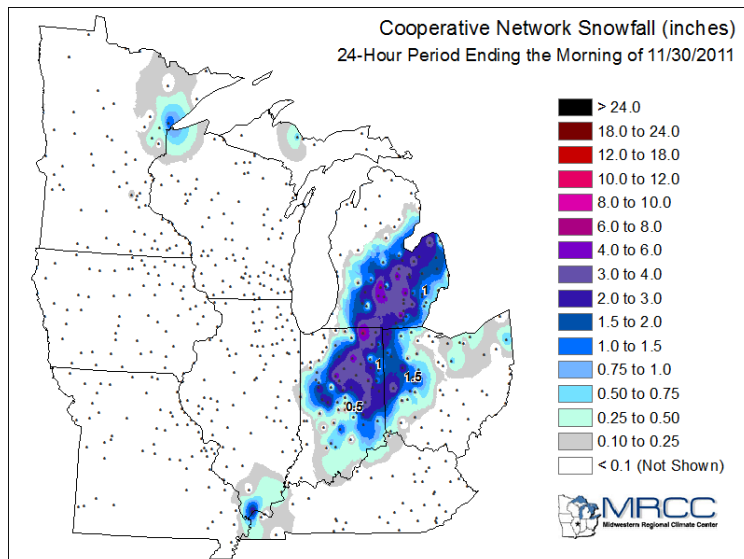
Available: Updated every 30 minutes starting at 14:10Z each morning.

Method to save: Screen capture and crop.



This is the primary source we refer the public to in order for them to create their own maps within 72 hours of an event, as it is an external web site.

MRCC CliWatch Snowfall Maps



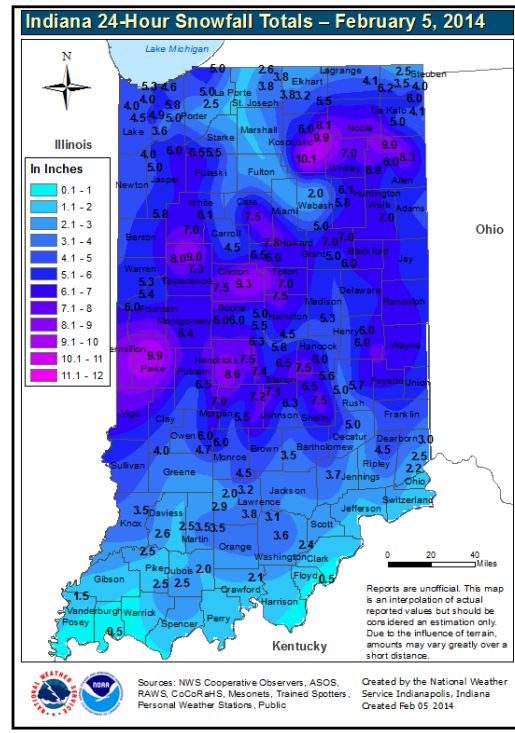
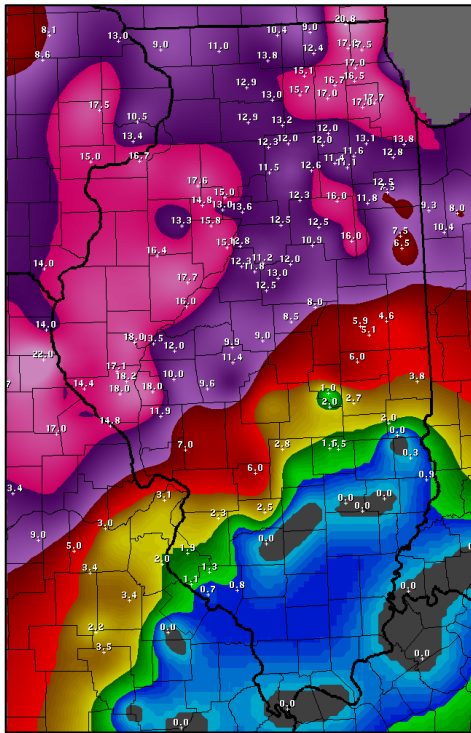
Site:

http://mrcc.sws.uiuc.edu/cliwatch/DLY_SNF_L_MAPS.htm

Available: Late morning.

More snow and other element maps for IL are available for the public from the MRCC at: <http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/atmos/statecli/Current/current.htm>

State Snowfall Maps



Illinois (WFO ILX):

Site: www.weather.gov/ilx/snowfall (external)

Available: Around 11 am each morning.

Method to save: Right click and Save Image.

These use COOP data and official climate sites (ORD, RFD) and are for the entire state and immediate adjacent areas, including our NW IN counties. This can be nice for state partners.

Additional State Maps are Available for:

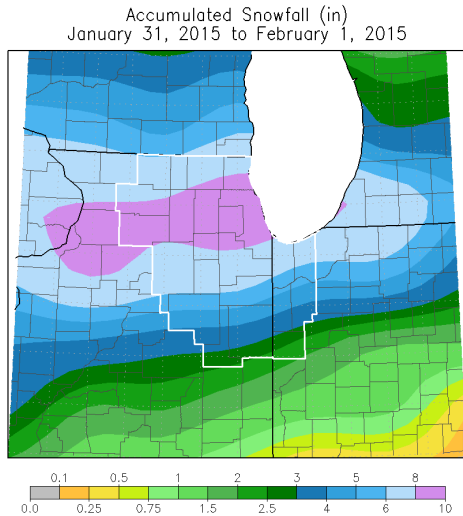
Indiana (WFO IND): www.weather.gov/ind/latestcoopmaps (external)

Wisconsin (WFO MKX): www.weather.gov/mkx/climate_graphs-plots (external)

Any State or National (NCDC): www.ncdc.noaa.gov/snow-and-ice/recent-snow/ (external)

Options For Longer Since an Event or Climatic Purposes

Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC) Maps



Site: mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/ (internal)

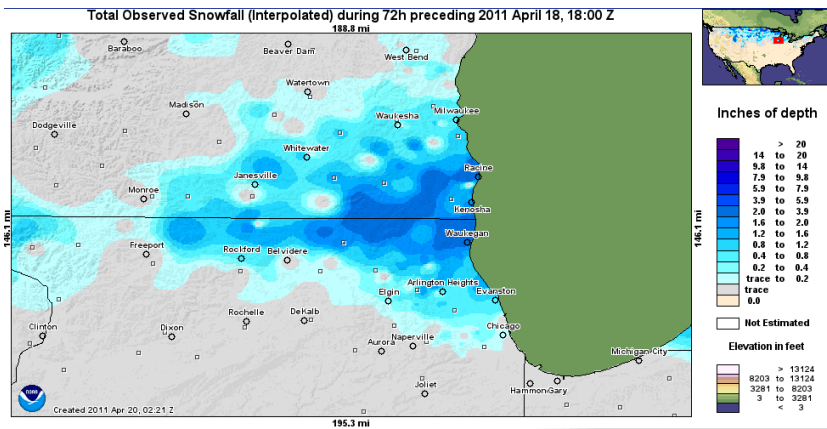
E-mail: nws.chicago@noaa.gov Password: nwschi333

Available: Each day around 10:30 am.

Method to save: Right click and Save Image.

These maps can be made on a WFO, state, or multi-state scale. The MRCC uses a smoother interpolation technique so localized maxima may be washed out. These are most ideal for weekly, monthly, or multi-month graphics.

NOHRSC Maps



Site:

<http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/interactive/html/map.html> (external)

Available: Because of the data sources, this completely updates in the morning with minor updates in between.

Method to save: Screen capture and crop.

These can be really good for post mortems because you can go back years. You set the domain on these as the map is interactive which also is a plus. Maps can be contoured and/or have point data, one of the only sources to do that. They also have snow depth and SWE data. They use COOP and CoCoRaHS as input.

CoCoRaHS Snowfall Maps

Site: <http://www.cocorahs.org/Maps/ViewMap.aspx?state=IL> (external)

Available: The day of as morning CoCoRaHS reports are received. An archive is on the same page.

Method to save: Right click and Save Image.

