

Decision Support Services in an Urban Environment



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In January 2012, The National Weather Service (NWS) Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office (WFO Sterling) began a pilot project as part of the NWS "Weather-Ready Nation Initiative". The goal of the WFO Sterling project is to "provide Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) in an urban environment". The IDSS services are being developed to provide more tailored and relevant forecast services for emergency managers (EMs) throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

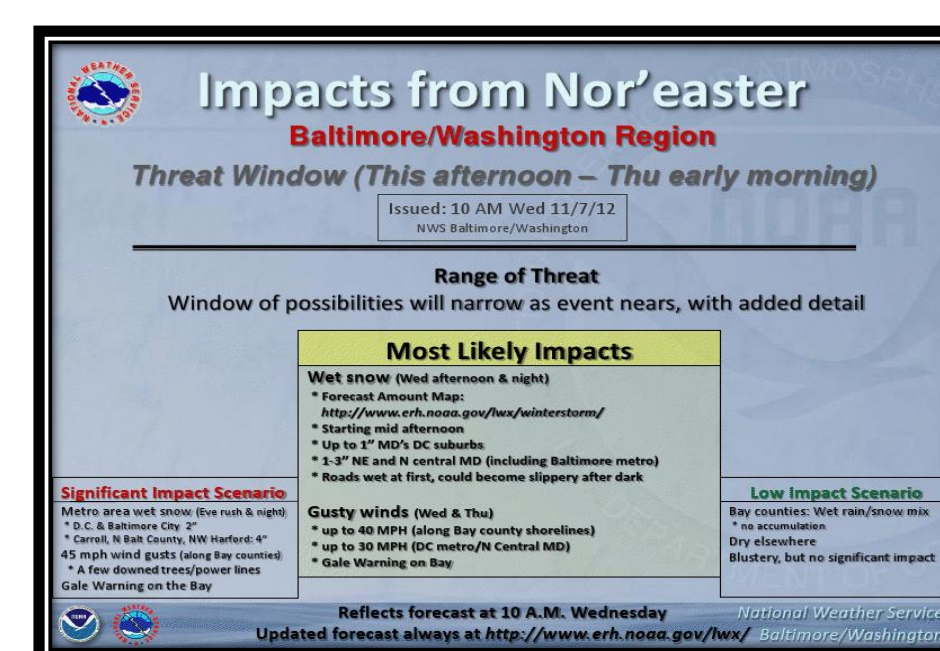
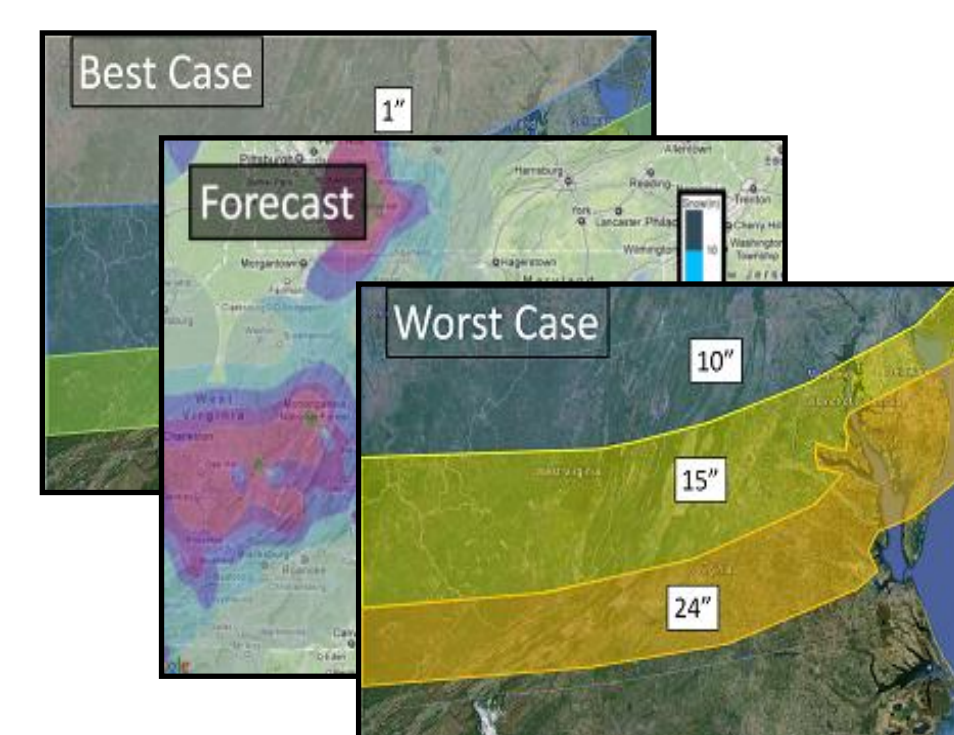
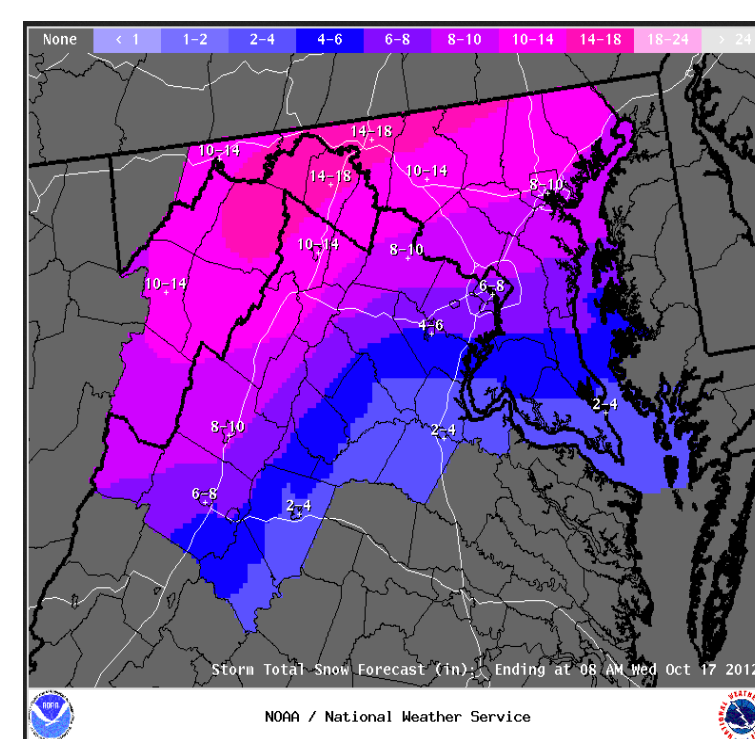
The office's team of Emergency Response Specialist (ERS) meteorologists has enhanced partnerships with EMs in the region. Through these partnerships, the ERS meteorologists are developing an "Impacts Catalog". This catalog specifically identifies how different forms of hazardous weather affect communities and the range of decisions emergency managers make in the face of these threats. The pilot project is developing a probabilistic winter weather suite of new forecast products. One portion of this suite will be products that will convey best / worst case potential scenarios of hazardous winter weather and the probability of each occurring.

Pilot Project Objectives:

1) Improve flow of weather information to core partners



2) Explain a range of possible weather outcomes



3) Increased awareness of societal impacts from weather



Some events our Emergency Response Meteorologists have supported :

- Upcoming 2013 Presidential Inauguration
- Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy
- Democratic National Convention
- 4th of July Fireworks at the National Mall
- War of 1812 Commemoration "Sailabration"
- G8 Summit
- "Easter Complex" Wildfires
- Disaster Preparation Exercises



4) Help build a weather-ready nation

