

Weather Reporting*

*With the emphasis on reporting

'Frankenstorm,' the monster of all storms, predicted for East Coast

- Originally published October 25, 2012 at 10:37 pm Updated October 26, 2012 at 6:37 am
- By [SETH BORENSTEIN](#)
- *Associated Press*
- WASHINGTON — All the spare parts appear to be coming together to create what forecasters are calling "Frankenstorm," a combination of high wind, heavy rain, extreme tides and maybe snow that could cause havoc along the East Coast just before Halloween next week.
- Hurricane Sandy, having blown through Haiti and Cuba on Thursday, continues to barrel north. A wintry storm is chugging across from the West. And frigid air is streaming south from Canada. If all three meet Tuesday around New York or New Jersey, as forecasters predict, they could create a big wet mess that settles over the nation's most heavily populated corridor and reaches as far inland as Ohio.
- With experts expecting at least \$1 billion in damage, the people who will have to clean it up aren't waiting.
- Utilities are lining up out-of-state work crews and canceling employees' days off to deal with expected power outages. From county-disaster chiefs to the federal government, emergency officials are warning the public to be prepared.
- "It's looking like a very serious storm that could be historic," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the forecasting service Weather Underground. "Mother Nature is not saying 'trick-or-treat.' It's just going to give tricks."
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecaster Jim Cisco, who coined the nickname Frankenstorm, said: "We don't have many modern precedents for what the models are suggesting."

And that leads to....

- **Hot Lunch I-95 Crews Foil Cooking Problems With Asphalt Fare.**
- June 27, 1990 | By SETH BORENSTEIN, Staff Writer
- Interstate 95 is really cooking now.
- It's cooking six corn dogs, two pork chops and a sausage.
- Pavers Reggie Akins and Roger McCallister on Tuesday wrapped the meat they brought for lunch in aluminum foil and buried the packets in an 18-inch pile of hot asphalt on I-95.
- An hour later, they attacked the pile with a shovel and unearthed a steamy and juicy lunch.
- Welcome to I-95's asphalt kitchen, where pavers routinely cook their lunches with 300-degree asphalt.
- It's literally one for the road.

I'm not a meteorologist

- [Boston University Academics](#)
- **BS in Journalism**
- (that's not only redundant, but it repeats itself over and over and over again).

Finding the fun in weather and writing about it

- **Degrees Of Difficulty South Florida Sizzling Summer Heat Is Blistering -- Especially On The Feet.**
- August 13, 1991 | By SETH BORENSTEIN, Staff Writer
- The cool surf beckoned to the swimsuit crowd on Monday, but first bathers had to cross the sand. On Fort Lauderdale's beach, that sand was 112 degrees.
- "If your feet aren't really tough, you just can't (walk on) it this time of year," Boca Raton lifeguard Lt. Bruce Weaver said on Monday. "People are running to and from the water stepping on blankets."
- These are the times that fry men's soles.
- South Florida is sizzling through its hottest period of the year with daily high temperatures expected around 92 and 93 degrees and feeling like 110 to 120 degrees, said Ray Biedinger, deputy meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service's South Florida office.

Or this....



Weather Service decided last minute not to cut snow forecast

- By [SETH BORENSTEIN](#)
- Mar. 14, 2017 6:36 PM EDT
- WASHINGTON (AP) — Before the first snow fell, U.S. meteorologists realized there was a good chance the late-winter storm wasn't going to produce giant snow totals in big Northeast cities as predicted.
- But they didn't change their forecasts because they said they didn't want to confuse the public.
- National Weather Service meteorologists in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington held a conference call Monday afternoon about computer models that dramatically cut predicted snow amounts. They decided to keep the super snowy warnings.
- "Out of extreme caution we decided to stick with higher amounts," Greg Carbin, chief of forecast operations at the [Weather Prediction Center](#) in suburban Maryland, told The Associated Press. "I actually think in the overall scheme that the actions (by states and cities) taken in advance of the event were exceptional."
- On Monday, the weather service predicted 18 to 24 inches of snow in New York City. By late Tuesday afternoon, Central Park was covered with a little more than 7 inches of snow with rain and sleet still falling. Other areas, including upstate New York and Connecticut, received more than a foot and a half of snow. Swaths of Pennsylvania were walloped by 20 to 30 inches of snow.
- Carbin said a last-minute change downgrading snowfall totals might have given people the wrong message that the storm was no longer a threat. It still was, but real danger was from ice and sleet in places like New York City and Washington, he said.

Story continues

- Dramatically changing forecasts in what meteorologists call "the windshield wiper effect" only hurts the public, said Bob Henson, a meteorologist for the private [Weather Underground](#).
- Carbin stood by the decision.
- "The nature of the beast is that there's always uncertainty in every forecast and we have to get better at describing that," Carbin said.
- The right amount of precipitation fell, but it came down as rain and sleet because the rain-snow line moved inland, according to Carbin and private forecasters.
- The rain-snow line is a 50 mile wide north-south swath where cold Arctic air from the north and west clashes with warm, moist air from the Atlantic. West of the snow line saw heavy snow while east had rain and sleet.
- The snow line happens to center on New York City so it was a bigger deal than if the line had been over a rural area, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue of [WeatherBell Analytics](#).
- Private forecast outfits said the National Weather Service did a good job forecasting a tough storm despite the beating the federal agency took on social media.
- "Overall the range of the forecast was very solid. It ended up being on the low end," Henson said. "I understand why people can be frustrated when the expectation is the big storm."
- University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd, host of the television show ["Weather Geeks,"](#) said the public focused too much on worst-case scenarios.
- "The perception of 'bust' is that it didn't materialize for New York in the manner expected. Much of the expected snow fell as sleet," Shepherd said in an email. "To me, ice is a far greater hazard. If a pitcher throws a strike down the center of the plate or just off the outside corner, it's still a strike."



NY Post: [Feds knew blizzard forecast was exaggerated — but didn't want to confuse us](#)

- March 14, 2017 | 7:07pm | [Updated March 21, 2017 | 11:07am](#)
- It's not exactly the snowpocalypse. The nor'easter that was expected...
- They completely flaked us out.
- On the eve of Tuesday's Winter Storm Stella, the National Weather Service got reports that its [dire prediction of up to 2 feet of snow](#) for New York City may have been exaggerated — but decided not to change its forecast.



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