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FEATURED

BREAKING

Christmas weekend to be freezing cold

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



A strong, arctic cold front will move through the area early Friday morning which will bring wind gusts over 35 mph and a very cold air mass to the area.



This graphic from the National Weather Service shows the movement of the arctic cold front from Thursday, Dec. 22, to Sunday, Dec. 25.

This weekend is expected to be the coldest snap all year, with temperatures as low as 19 degrees, said Darren Player, director of Lancaster Fire Rescue and Emergency Management.

The prospect of a white Christmas remains unlikely, but Player advises people to have an emergency action plan to prepare for winter weather conditions.

In January, temperatures were in the 20-degree range, and this week temperatures will drop to the low teens, and may even feel like single digits.

“On Friday, there may be a snowflake or two, late Friday evening,” Player said. “But by the time we get to Sunday (Christmas), the air will be too dry and too cold. And we’re glad for that because in this area, we generally don’t get snow, we’ll get freezing rain.”

Player said this weekend’s forecast didn’t show any accumulation of rain or frozen precipitation, as of Tuesday, but Friday showed an arctic cold front moving in, with wind gusts up to 35 miles per hour.

“That can bring down trees, if they’re weak, and it can bring down power lines, of course,” Player said. “You don’t want power off. (People) need to be a little prepared for the need to plan ahead, in case their power goes off.”

Player also said there is a chance of a wind chill of about 7 degrees, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

He said the NWS might send out a “one-pager,” detailing weekend conditions if they change into something significant, which will be shared.

The chance of a white Christmas is about 1%, although Player said snowflakes could be seen Tuesday, Dec. 20.

“I always give just about a 1% chance, just so it’s out there,” he said.

“The kids would like it,” Player said of a white Christmas. “I’m sure with just a little bit of sleet and the six snowflakes that we had today (Tuesday), that milk and bread are already in short supply.”

SCDOT prepares for wintry weather

With forecasts calling for possible winter weather and an expected increase in road travel during the upcoming holiday weekend, S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) employees are working to ensure motorists are as safe as possible when driving on state roads and bridges.

SCDOT workers were out Wednesday pretreating roads and bridges to prevent the possible buildup of ice or snow.

SCDOT is continually monitoring weather conditions, and workers in each county of South Carolina are prepared to follow a designated plan in case of winter weather.

Motorists are urged to use caution while driving, especially during increased holiday traffic. Avoid driving during winter weather events. Snow and ice can be hazardous. If travel is essential, motorists should use extreme caution, reduce speeds and stay clear of road crews performing clearing and de-icing operations.

In case of emergency, motorists should call *47 for SCDOT State Highway Emergency Program (SHEP) assistance.

In the event of winter weather, refer to www.scdot.org, [Facebook.com/SCDOT](https://www.facebook.com/SCDOT) or [@SCDOTPress](https://twitter.com/SCDOTPress) on Twitter for the latest information.

Haley