

Another Round of Wind and Rain Followed by Snow

March 16, 2026
5:00 AM EDT

High Winds and Accumulating Snow

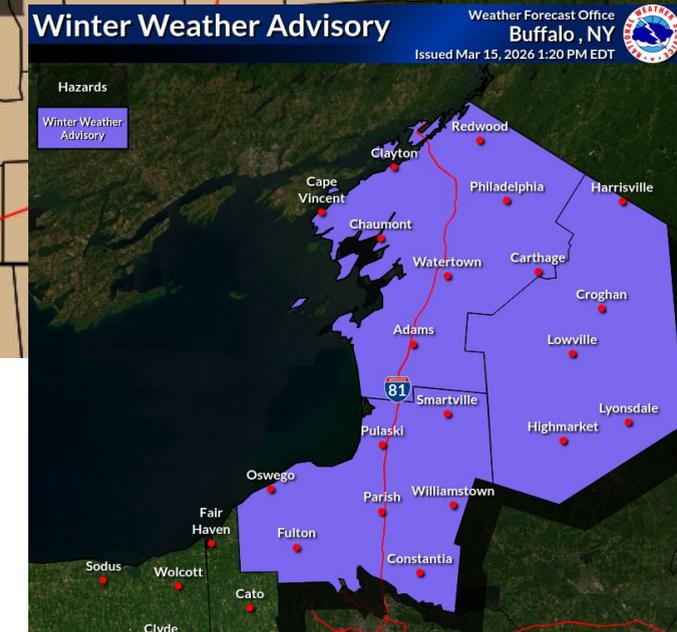
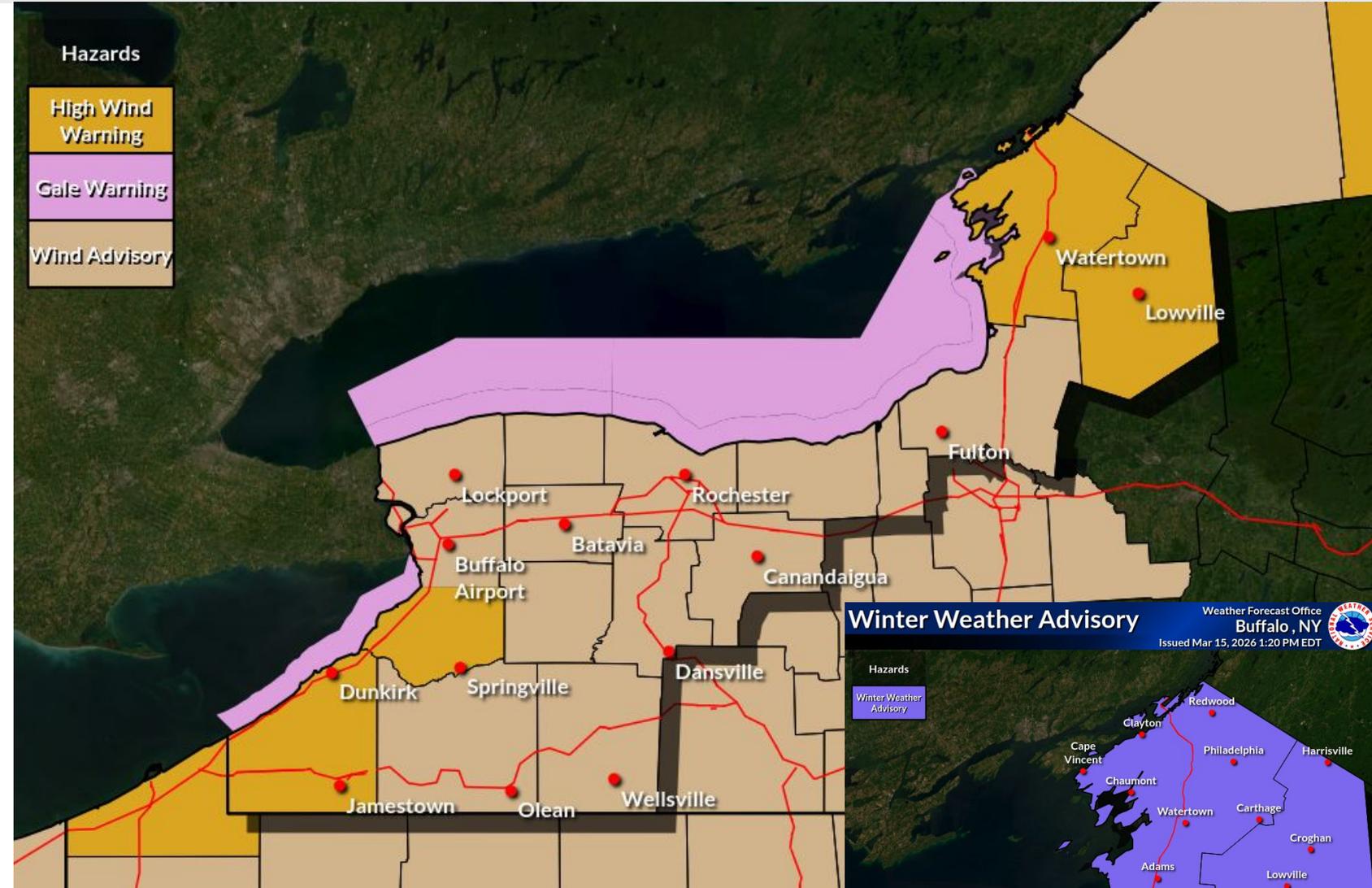
Key Messages

- Strong winds will persist through tonight
- Widespread rain and possibly a few strong to severe thunderstorms today, before a rapid changeover to snow starting this afternoon
- Periods of lake effect snow tonight through Tuesday night

NEW

Important Updates

→ Wind headlines were extended for Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Erie, Genesee, Wyoming, and Chautauqua counties through 8AM Tuesday



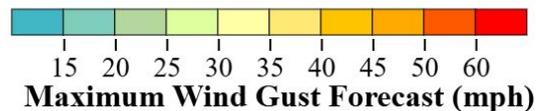


Forecast Peak Wind Gusts

March 16, 2026
5:00 AM EDT

Through Tuesday

	Maximum Wind Gust (mph) Forecast														Gust Max
	3/16 Mon						3/17 Tue								
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	
Batavia	41↑	41↑	39↑	41→	47→	43→	43→	45→	45→	40→	37→	35→	31→	23→	47 →
Buffalo	48↑	47↑	45↑	47→	48→	53→	51→	51→	51→	40↓	36↓	32↓	28↓	21↓	53 →
Canandaigua	44↑	40↑	37↑	31→	32→	30→	35→	39→	39→	36→	35→	33→	31→	25→	44 ↑
Dansville	36↑	40↑	40↑	32→	25→	25→	29→	32→	32→	31→	30→	29→	25→	18→	40 ↑
Dunkirk	51↑	37↑	41↑	43→	47→	49→	47→	47→	45→	38→	35→	32→	29→	20→	51 ↑
Fulton	40↔	39↔	39↑	35↑	30→	28→	33→	39→	40→	37→	36→	35→	32→	26→	40 ↔
Jamestown	38↑	39↑	37↑	30→	33→	36→	38→	38→	38→	33→	31→	29→	24→	17→	39 ↑
Lowville	40↑	39↑	32↑	38↑	28↑	28→	28→	35→	36→	33→	31→	29→	26→	20→	40 ↑
Medina	37↑	39↑	39→	39→	43→	43→	45→	47→	46→	41→	37→	33→	31→	24→	47 →
Newark	39↑	37↑	37↑	31↑	31→	25→	29→	33→	35→	33→	32→	31→	29→	22→	39 ↑
Olean	33↑	40↑	39↑	31↑	29→	30→	33→	37→	37→	33→	30→	28→	25→	18→	40 ↑
Rochester	36↑	37↑	38→	36→	38→	35→	38→	44→	44→	37→	35→	35→	31→	24→	44 →
Springville	37↑	39↑	40→	31→	37→	38→	37→	38→	38→	33→	29→	26→	24→	17→	40 ↗
Warsaw	41↑	43↑	44↑	36→	40→	40→	40→	44→	44→	39→	36→	33→	31→	22→	44 ↑
Watertown	56↑	53↑	47↑	44↑	31↔	30→	38→	44→	44→	41→	39→	36→	31→	22→	56 ↑
Wellsville	37↑	44↑	43↑	35↑	30→	32→	35→	39→	39→	37→	32→	29→	26→	21→	44 ↑



- ❑ Across Western NY wind gusts through the first part of this morning will be strongest in the typical downslope areas south of Buffalo and Batavia, as well as in the Finger Lakes, with the strongest gusts expected west of the Chautauqua Ridge.
- ❑ Downslope winds from the northern Tug Hill to Watertown will remain very strong through mid morning.
- ❑ A lull in the peak wind gusts expected later this morning, though remaining very breezy.
- ❑ Winds shift southwesterly Monday afternoon and pick up in strength a bit, particularly across the Niagara Frontier.





Gale Warning for Lake Erie



WHERE/WHEN

→ The NY Portion of Lake Erie from noon today through Tuesday morning



Waves

→ 11 to 15 feet



Wind

→ Southwest winds to 35 knots



IMPACTS

→ Strong winds can create hazardous waves which can capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility



Mariners should consider altering plans to avoid hazardous conditions. Remain in port, seek safe harbor, or alter course.



Gale Warning for Lake Ontario



WHERE/WHEN

→ All of the U.S. portions of Lake Ontario from late this afternoon through Tuesday



Waves

→ 12 to 18 feet



Wind

→ West winds to 40 knots



IMPACTS

→ Strong winds can create hazardous waves which can capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility

Mariners should consider altering plans to avoid hazardous conditions. Remain in port, seek safe harbor, or alter course.



Strong Cold Front Expected

March 16, 2026
5:00 AM EDT

Monday Afternoon into Tuesday

Temperature (°F) Forecast

	3/16 Mon						3/17 Tue						3/18 Wed			Temp		
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am		3am	6am
Batavia	52	54	58	45	33	28	25	20	16	17	20	22	22	19	18	16	16	58
Buffalo	54	55	58	43	34	29	26	22	18	18	21	24	23	21	20	19	18	58
Canandaigua	51	54	62	60	40	33	29	25	20	20	22	24	23	21	19	18	18	62
Dansville	51	53	60	58	43	34	28	24	21	20	24	26	25	21	19	18	18	60
Dunkirk	58	57	56	42	33	30	26	22	20	20	22	24	24	22	22	22	22	58
Fulton	49	53	63	63	44	36	30	26	20	19	23	24	24	22	20	19	18	63
Jamestown	50	51	54	45	33	26	22	19	17	18	21	23	21	19	18	18	18	54
Lowville	43	46	56	58	49	35	30	26	19	18	20	21	19	14	12	9	8	58
Medina	52	54	58	45	34	29	26	21	17	18	22	25	24	21	20	19	18	58
Newark	51	55	64	62	42	34	30	25	20	20	23	25	25	22	20	19	18	64
Olean	49	51	56	53	38	29	24	20	17	18	22	24	22	18	18	17	16	56
Rochester	52	55	62	52	39	33	28	24	19	18	22	25	25	22	20	19	18	62
Springville	50	51	55	41	31	26	22	18	16	15	19	21	20	17	16	15	16	55
Warsaw	50	51	57	47	33	26	24	19	15	15	18	20	20	16	15	14	14	57
Watertown	50	53	61	61	44	36	32	28	22	19	20	20	20	18	14	11	10	61
Wellsville	48	51	57	55	41	31	25	20	17	17	21	23	21	17	16	15	16	57



- Temperatures quickly drop this afternoon behind cold front from the mid and upper 50s and low 60s to the teens by Tuesday morning.
- Precipitation will quickly change over from widespread rain showers and a few embedded gusty thunderstorms to snow from west to east starting this afternoon
 - A period of accumulating wet snow is expected right behind the cold front late this afternoon into this evening, highest amounts east of the Genesee Valley.





Accumulating Snow Possible

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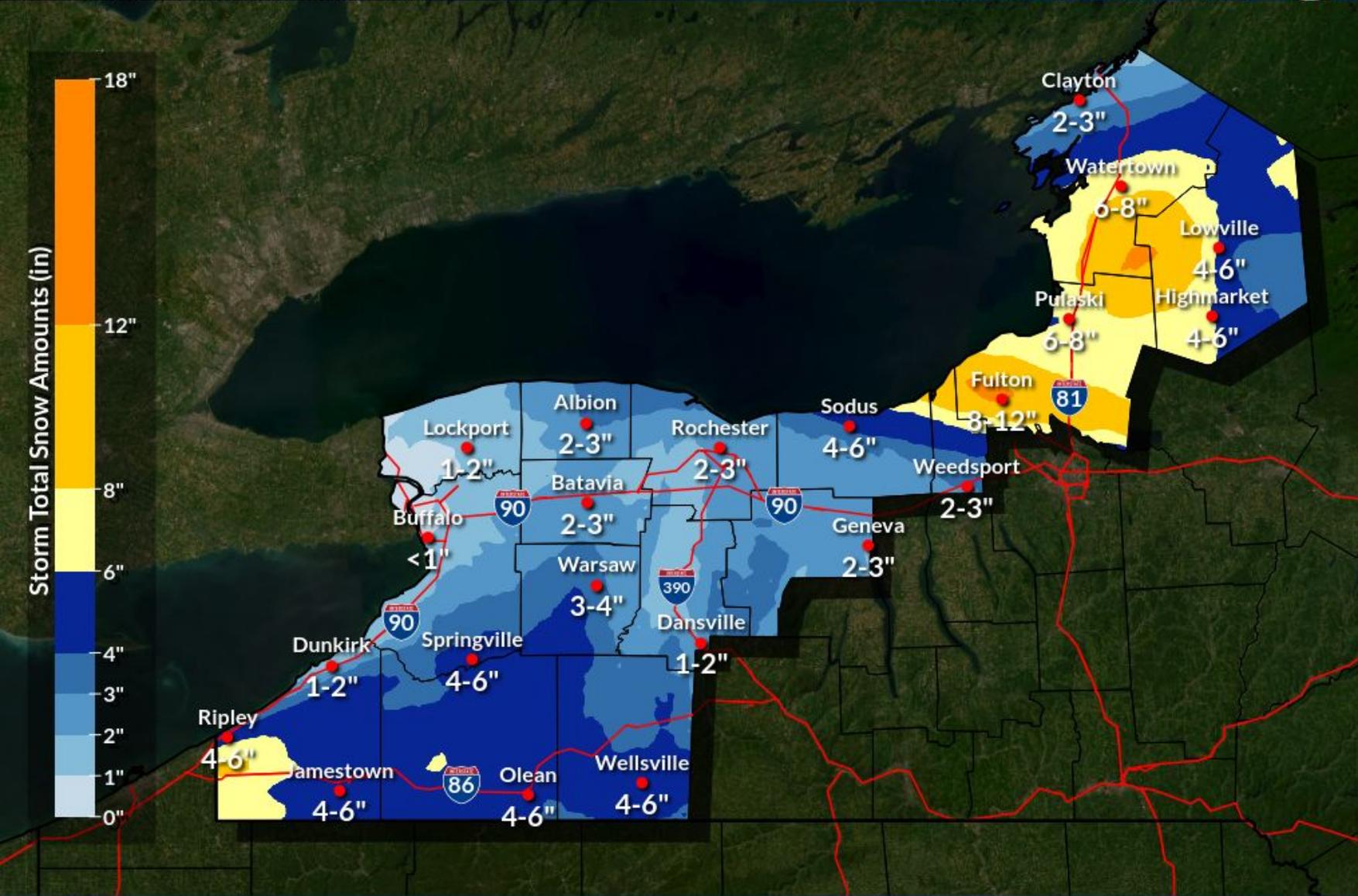
Late Today through Early Wednesday Morning

Forecast Storm Total Snow

8PM Tonight through 8AM Wednesday

Weather Forecast Office
Buffalo, NY

Issued Mar 16, 2026 4:47 AM EDT



NWSBuffalo weather.gov/buf

- ❑ Cold air will move into the region late this afternoon through tonight, causing rain to transition to snow. A burst of heavy wet snow is expected very late this afternoon into this evening possibly producing a quick few inches of accumulation.
- ❑ A band of lake effect snow is expected to develop east of Lake Ontario later tonight and persist through Tuesday night. Locally difficult travel is possible for the eastern Lake Ontario region.
 - ❑ Lighter accumulating lake snows expected east of Lake Erie, with the highest amounts across the western Southern Tier.
- ❑ Strong westerly winds gusting over 40 mph tonight and Tuesday will produce significant blowing and drifting snow.



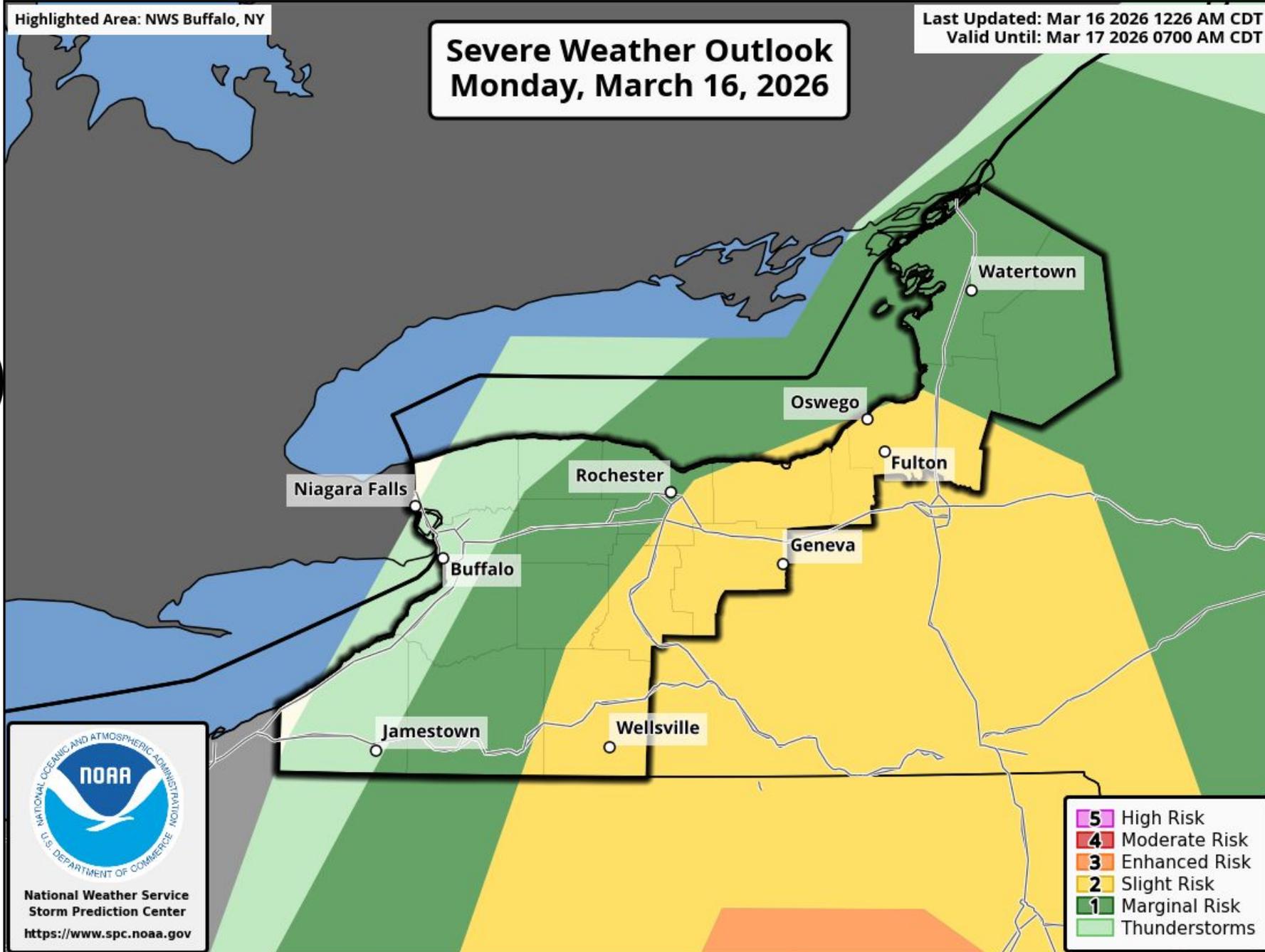
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Buffalo, NY



Scattered Damaging Wind Gusts Possible Today

March 16, 2026
5:00 AM EDT



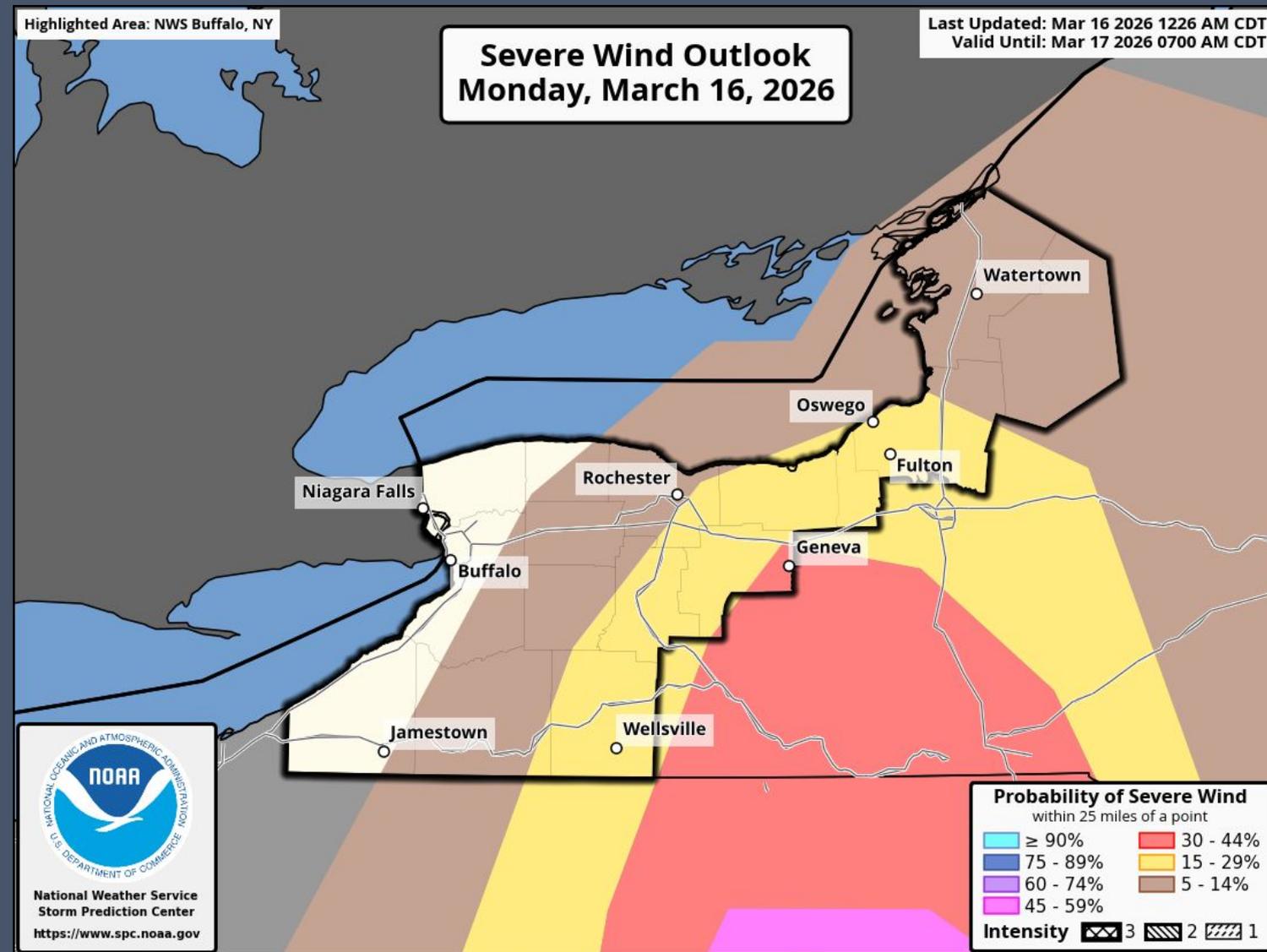
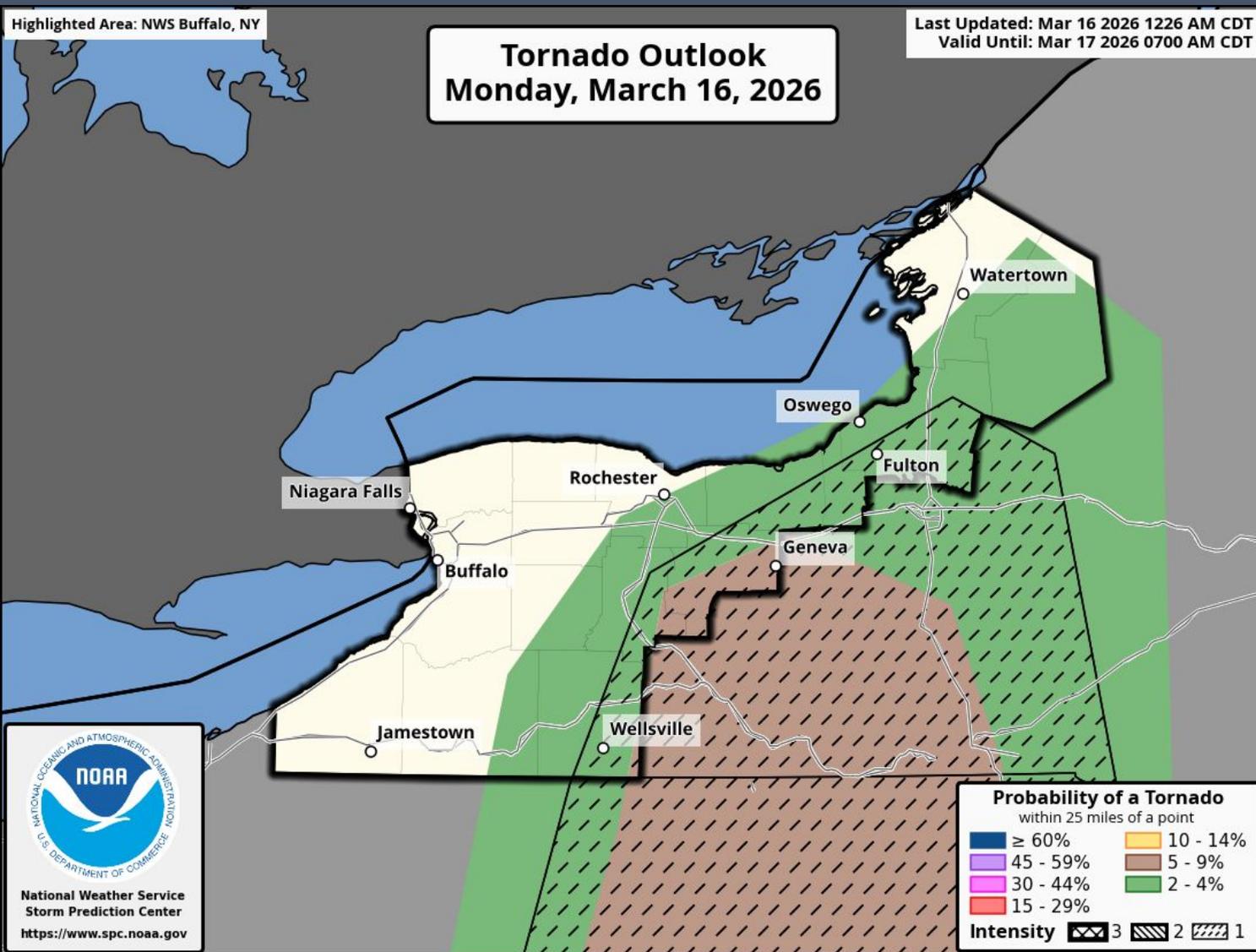
WHAT TO EXPECT

- A line of showers and thunderstorms along a cold front is expected to move through the region today. Scattered thunderstorms may become severe with damaging winds the primary threat. A tornado cannot be ruled out.
- Locally heavy rainfall is possible from the Finger Lakes to the southern Tug Hill region

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2 **SCATTERED** severe storms **possible**

Scattered **SEVERE STORMS** This Afternoon



HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

SCATTERED severe storms **possible**

SEVERE RISK TIMING

12 PM - 8 PM



Post-Event Outlook

March 16, 2026
5:00 AM EDT

Wednesday through Saturday

Weather Forecast

	3/18 Wed		3/19 Thu			3/20 Fri			3/21 Sat			Weather		
	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm		12am	6am
Batavia			☁ 15%	☁ 20%	☁ 20%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 25%	☔ 20%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 40%
Buffalo			☁ 20%	☁ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 25%	☔ 20%	☔ 25%	☔ 45%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 35%
Canandaigua						☔ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 25%		☔ 20%	☔ 30%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 35%
Dansville	☁ 15%					☔ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 25%		☔ 20%	☔ 30%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 35%
Dunkirk			☁ 20%	☁ 20%	☔ 25%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 20%	☔ 15%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 45%	☔ 45%	☔ 30%
Fulton	☁ 80%	☁ 30%			☔ 20%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 35%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 45%
Jamestown	☁ 65%		☁ 20%	☁ 20%	☔ 20%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 25%		☔ 20%	☔ 35%	☔ 45%	☔ 45%	☔ 30%
Lowville				☁ 20%	☁ 30%	☔ 45%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☁ 35%	☁ 30%	☁ 35%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%
Medina			☁ 20%	☁ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 25%	☔ 20%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 35%
Newark						☔ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 25%		☔ 20%	☔ 30%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 35%
Olean	☁ 25%			☁ 20%	☔ 20%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 30%		☔ 20%	☔ 30%	☔ 45%	☔ 45%	☔ 35%
Rochester					☔ 15%	☔ 30%	☔ 30%	☔ 20%	☔ 15%	☔ 25%	☔ 35%	☔ 45%	☔ 45%	☔ 35%
Springville	☁ 20%		☁ 20%	☁ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 30%	☔ 20%	☔ 25%	☔ 45%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 40%
Warsaw				☁ 15%	☔ 15%	☔ 35%	☔ 35%	☔ 25%	☁ 15%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 40%
Watertown				☁ 20%	☔ 30%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 30%	☁ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 50%	☔ 50%	☔ 45%
Wellsville	☁ 15%					☔ 25%	☔ 25%	☔ 25%		☔ 20%	☔ 25%	☔ 40%	☔ 40%	☔ 30%

- Rain + - Wintry Mix + - Snow +

- ☐ A day to day warming trend Wednesday through Friday, with temperatures quickly rebounding to more seasonable levels.
- ☐ A pair of weak systems will bring chances for on and off light rain and snow showers Thursday and Friday.
- ☐ Though still with higher uncertainty, a stronger system may arrive by next weekend with chances for both rain and snow.



Contact and Next Briefing Information

March 16, 2026
5:00 AM

For Western and North Central New York



Next Briefing

→ By 6 AM Tuesday, March 17, 2026



Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: 4 AM Tuesday, March 17, 2026



Contact Information

Web

→ weather.gov/buf

Phone

→ (716) 565-0204

Email

→ bufstorm.report@noaa.gov

Facebook

→ facebook.com/NWSBuffalo

Twitter

→ [@NWSBUFFALO](https://twitter.com/NWSBUFFALO)

