



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 1, 2024

High Winds and Travel Advisory Issued for Southwest New Mexico
Expect Strong Winds, Snow, and Blowing Dust

DEMING - The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) will be monitoring roadway conditions with local law enforcement over the next several days. If you must travel, we recommend you monitor local forecast conditions prior to starting your trip and visit our web site as roadway conditions may change quickly throughout New Mexico.

Roadway advisories will be posted on www.nmroads.com, or by calling 511. If you are approaching a dust storm or caught in a dust storm, please follow the guidelines below to help you stay safe.

- On Thursday, February 1, 2024, High wind advisories were issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) (impacts attached from NWS with Press Release).
- On Friday, February 2, 2024, the NWS is forecasting very strong winds from 20 to 30 mph and 3-5 inches of snow in the mountain areas.
- On Saturday, February 3, 2024, the wind gusts are expected to increase to 25 to 35 mph with gusts up to 50 mph. *The I-10 corridor could see low visibilities from blowing dust and mountain snow could create slick roadways.*

The NMDOT would like to remind the traveling public, blowing dust can escalate to blinding dust storms as they move quickly through remote areas.

- Avoid driving into or through a dust storm.
- Do not wait until poor visibility makes it difficult to safely pull off the roadway — do it as soon as possible. Completely exit the highway if you can.
- If you encounter a dust storm, check traffic immediately around your vehicle (front, back and to the side) and begin slowing down.
- Do not stop in the roadway; pull completely out of the travel lanes and as far onto the right shoulder as possible.
- Stop the vehicle in a position ensuring it is a safe distance from the main roadway and away from where other vehicles may travel.
- Turn off all vehicle lights, including your emergency flashers.
- Set your emergency brake and take your foot off the brake.
- Stay in the vehicle with your seat belts buckled and wait for the storm to pass.
- Drivers of high-profile vehicles should be especially aware of changing weather conditions and travel at reduced speeds.

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NMDOT

Mobility for everyone

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Weather Hazards Outlook

El Paso Area NWS Forecast Office



Issued:	Effective:	Next Issuance:
Thursday AM, February 1, 2024	February 1 – February 7, 2024	Monday AM, February 5, 2024

Hazards Matrix – February 1 – February 7, 2024

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
EL PASO		ISO RA WINDY DUST	SLGT RA VRY WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
HUDSPETH		ISO RA WINDY DUST	SLGT RA VRY WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
DOÑA ANA		ISO RA WINDY DUST	SLGT RA WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
LUNA	BREEZY	ISO RA WINDY DUST	SLGT RA WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
OTERO Lowlands		ISO RA WINDY	SLGT RA WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
OTERO Mountains		SCT SN WINDY BLWG SN	SLGT SN WINDY BLWG SN				CHC SN WINDY
SIERRA		SCT RA WINDY	SLGT RA WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
GILA/BLACK RANGE	CHC RA	SCT SN WINDY BLWG SN	SLGT SN WINDY BLWG SN				CHC SN WINDY
HIDALGO & S. GRANT	BREEZY	SCT RA WINDY DUST	SLGT RA WINDY				CHC RA WINDY
<i>Key:</i>	No Hazard	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme	
	ISO=Isolated / SCT=scattered / CHC=chance / SLGT=slight chance / RA=rain / SN=snow / SH=showers						

***** Strong Winter Storm to bring strong winds/blowing dust to the area Friday and Saturday*****

*****Moderate snowfall possible over the mountains Friday*****

Forecast Overview

Our winter storm is on schedule to begin moving in tonight and persisting into mid-day Saturday before moving off to the east. Some rain will develop over the Gila this evening and then spread to all areas throughout Friday. Most precipitation will end by Saturday afternoon. Snow levels will drop to around 6000 ft by Friday afternoon, with moderate snowfall possible in elevations above this. Winds will also pick up Friday and blowing dust is likely along the southern deserts. Winds will become even stronger Saturday, especially along east slopes of the Organ, Franklin and Hueco Mountains. Sunday through Tuesday will see a break in the action before another Pacific storm moves in Wednesday for a chance of desert rain and mountain snow.

Today

WEATHER	Partly cloudy. A slight chance of rain showers over the Gila this evening. Breezy winds of 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon.
HAZARDS	No Significant Hazards
IMPACTS	No Significant Impacts.

Friday

WEATHER	Scattered mountain snow showers and isolated lowland rain showers. Winds 20 to 30 mph. Blowing dust across the southern desert. Snow amounts of 3-5 inches, mainly above 7000 ft.
HAZARDS	Blowing dust. Moderate mountain snow.
IMPACTS	Travel across the I-10 corridor from Lordsburg to Hudspeth County could see low visibilities. Mountain snow could create slick spots.

Saturday – High Wind Watch for much of area east of the Organ and Franklin Mtns.

WEATHER	Partly cloudy and windy. Slight chance of mountain snow and lowland rain. Winds 25-35 mph west of the Rio Grande Valley and 25-40 mph with gusts to 50 mph to the east. Lowered wind chill temperatures.
HAZARDS	Blowing snow mountains and patchy blowing dust/strong winds eastern lowlands.
IMPACTS	Mountain roads could remain slick with poor visibilities in blowing snow. Blowing dust southern desert could reduce visibilities.

Sunday through Tuesday

WEATHER	Dry with clearing skies. Seasonal to above normal high temperatures.
HAZARDS	No Significant Hazards
IMPACTS	No Significant Impacts.

Wednesday

WEATHER	Increasing clouds. Chance of mountain snow and lowland rain.
HAZARDS	Moderate mountain snow.
IMPACTS	Mountain road travel may become difficult.

Weather Graphics Links: *click county below (Satellite, Radar, Charts, Outlooks, etc.)*

- [El Paso](#)
- [Hudspeth](#)
- [Doña Ana](#)
- [Otero](#)
- [Sierra](#)
- [Luna](#)
- [Grant](#)
- [Hidalgo](#)

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This outlook is intended for government subscribers and is NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION. Contact this office if you have any questions, or for the latest specific weather information. Thanks!

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For administrative questions relating to this product please e-mail James.Barham@noaa.gov