



Updated: Wed Jan 21, 2026 4:06 AM

January 23 - 26 Winter Weather

Situational Awareness Briefing

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Key Points:

- An arctic cold front arrives Friday in eastern New Mexico and West Texas bringing bitterly cold temperatures into the teens and single digits this weekend.
- The cold temperatures will bring a wintry mix of freezing rain/sleet/snow to the area Friday into early Sunday. A Winter Storm Watch has thus been issued Friday afternoon through early Sunday morning.
- Dangerously cold wind chills are possible through Monday morning.



Forecast Confidence:

- **Low** confidence with precipitation type & amounts.
- **High** confidence on temperatures.
- **Medium** confidence on timing.



Timing/Location:

- Rain early Friday afternoon will change to freezing rain late Friday afternoon and early evening across the entire area, though the highest precipitation chances will be north of I-20.
- Freezing rain transitions to sleet and snow beginning early Saturday in SE NM and the northern Permian Basin. This transition line moves south during the day with all precipitation ending early Sunday morning.



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Winter Storm Watch



12 PM CST Friday - 6 AM CST Sunday



Guadalupe Mountains, SE New Mexico,
Permian Basin, Upper Trans-Pecos



→ Wintry mix, with moderate to heavy
accumulations of ice, sleet, or snow
possible



SLIPPERY -
HAZARDOUS TRAVEL



Accumulation of ice on
power lines may result
in power outages



DIFFICULT DRIVING
CONDITIONS

IMPACTS:

What to Do:



Delay or avoid
travel if possible



Prepare for possible
power outages!



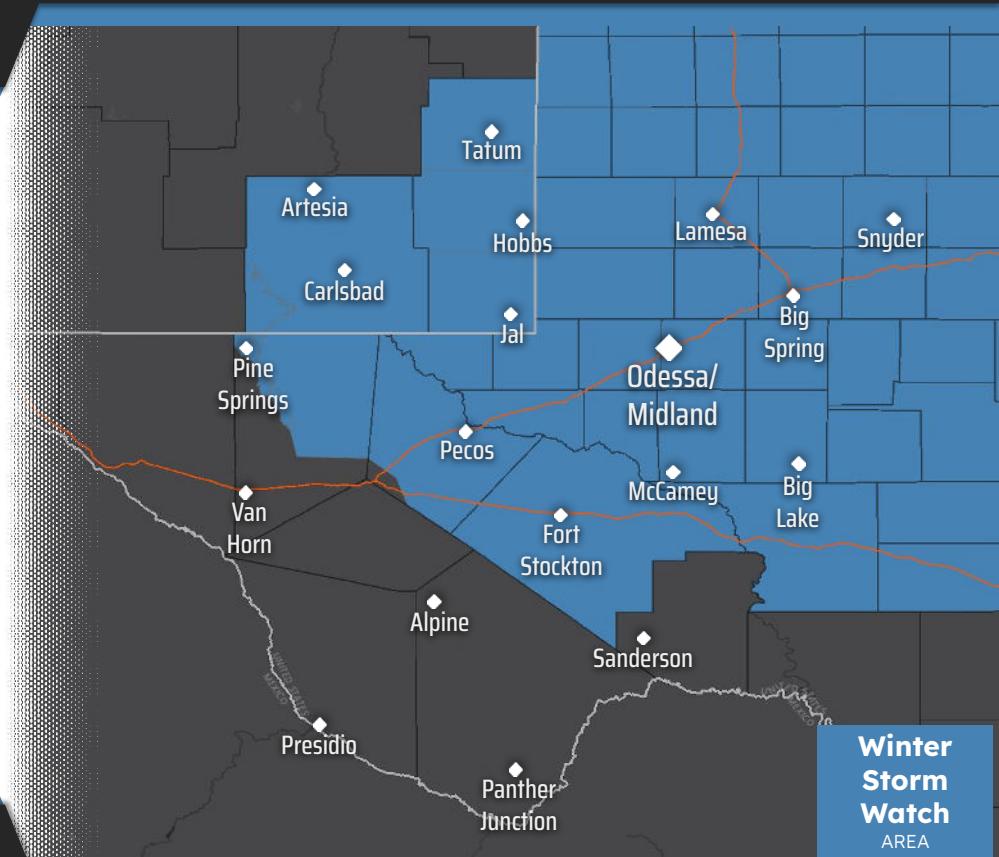
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Use Caution if Driving

Latest info at weather.gov/Midland



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Ice Potential This Weekend

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Key Message

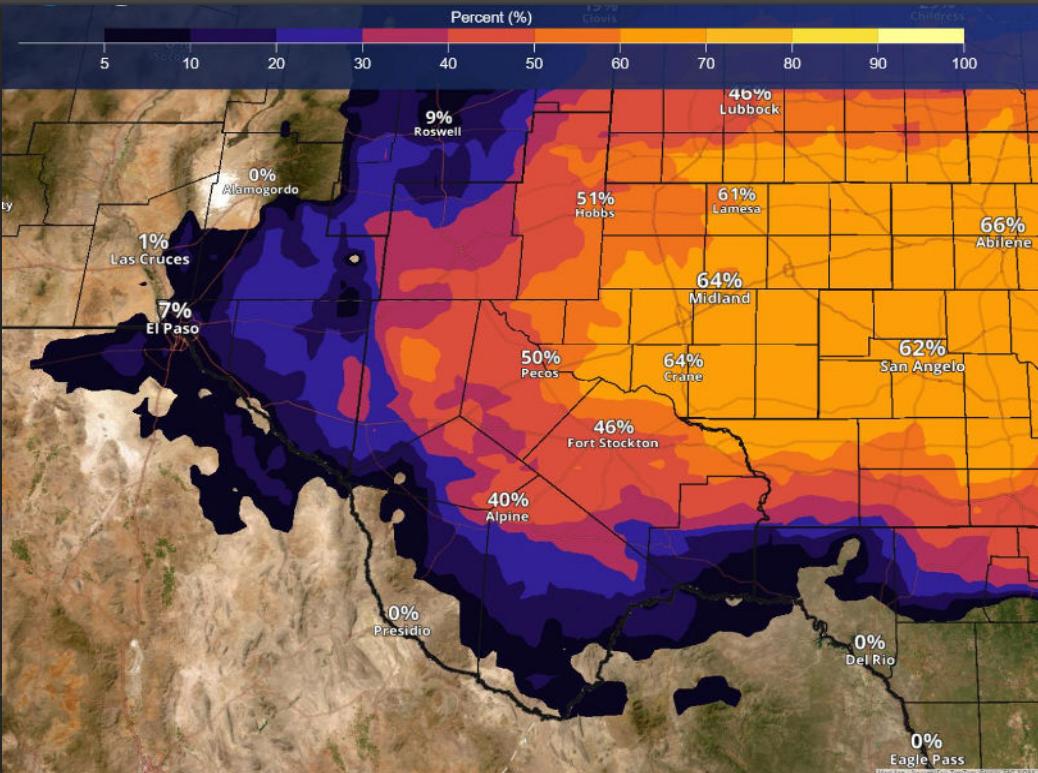
- Temps will drop quickly Friday with freezing rain starting shortly after the front moves through
- There is a medium to high chance (40-70%) of many areas seeing at least 0.10" of ice
- Moderate travel impacts possible



What We're Watching

- Timing - onset of freezing rain
- Ice accumulation amounts

Chance for At Least 0.10 inch of Ice



Actions to Take



Monitor the forecast.



Delay or alter travel plans.



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Snow Potential This Weekend

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Key Message

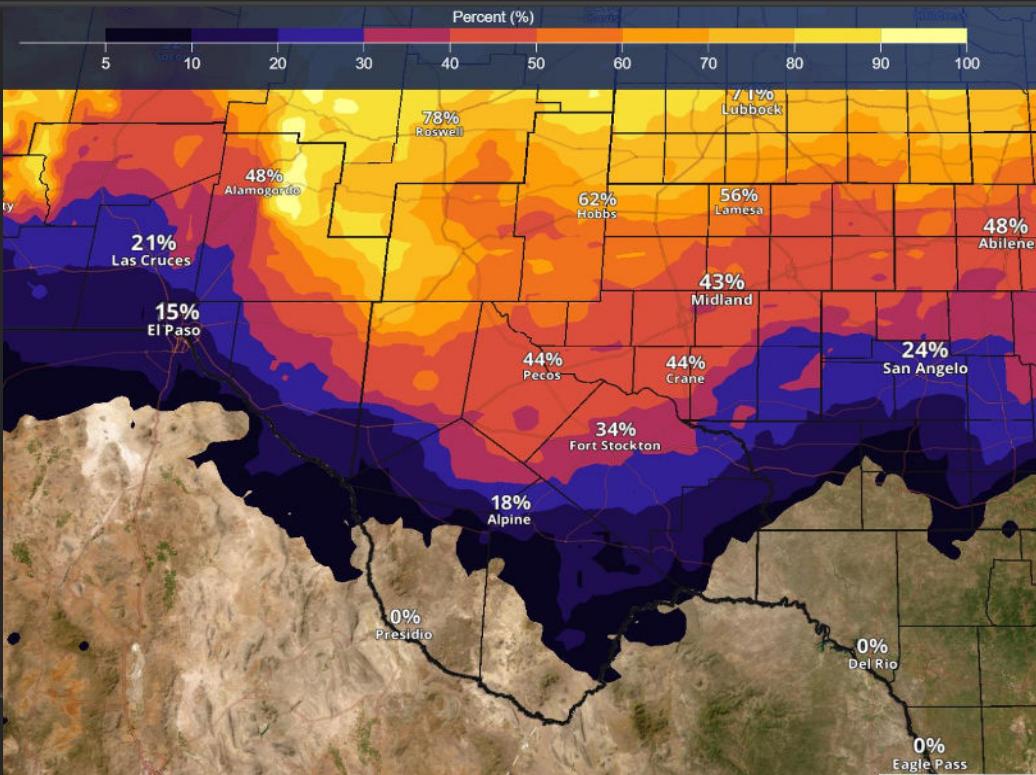
- Ice looks to change over to snow Saturday, north of I-10
- Medium chance (40-70%) of at least 1 inch of snow, north of I-10 (see graphic to the right)
- Low chance (10-30%) of at least 3 inches of snow, north of I-20
- Minor to moderate travel impacts



What We're Watching

- Timing of transition to snow
- Snow accumulations

Chance for At Least 1 inch of Snow



Actions to Take



Monitor the forecast.



Delay or alter travel plans.

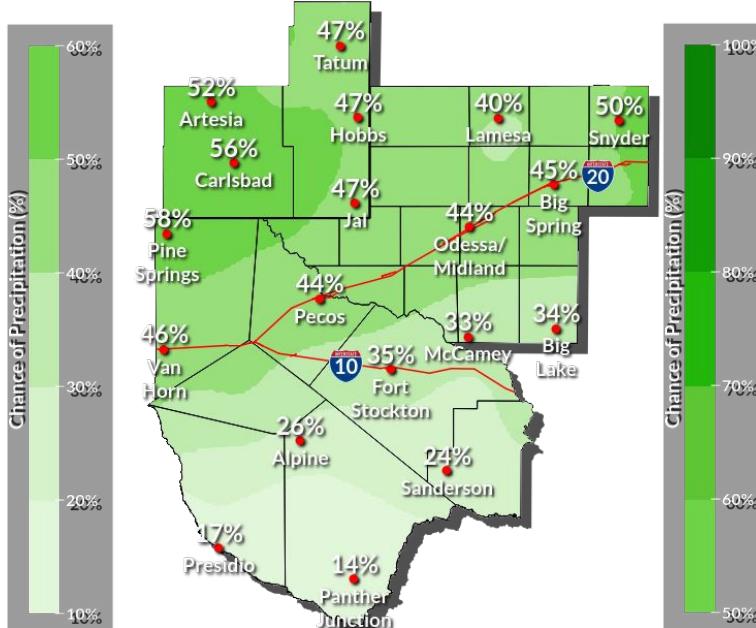


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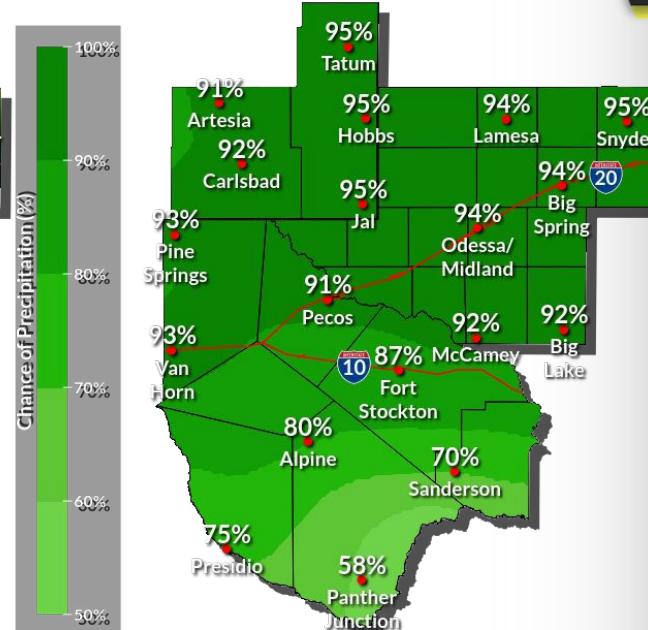
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Precip Chances Friday and Friday Night

Friday Chances



Friday Night Chances



Key Points

- Precipitation chances quickly increase Friday behind the front. Precipitation begins as rain and changes over to freezing rain behind the front.
- Precipitation is most likely across the entire area Friday night.



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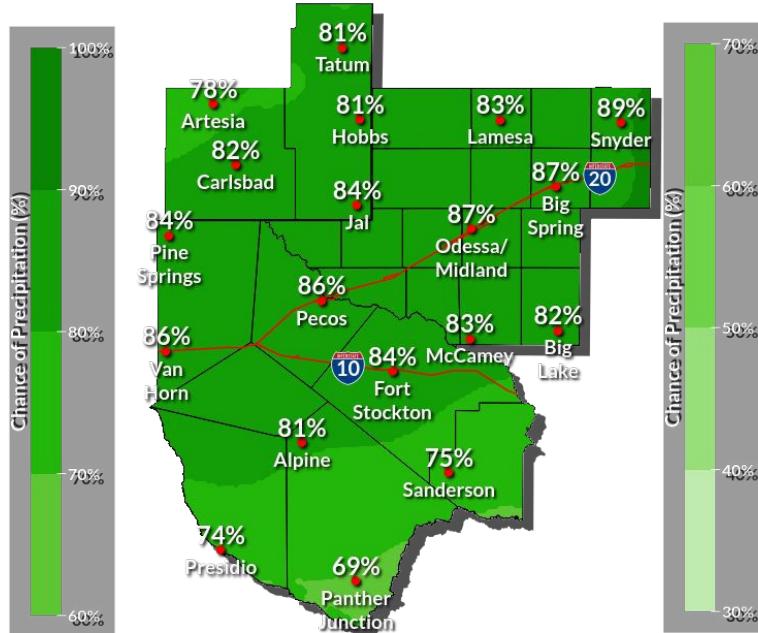
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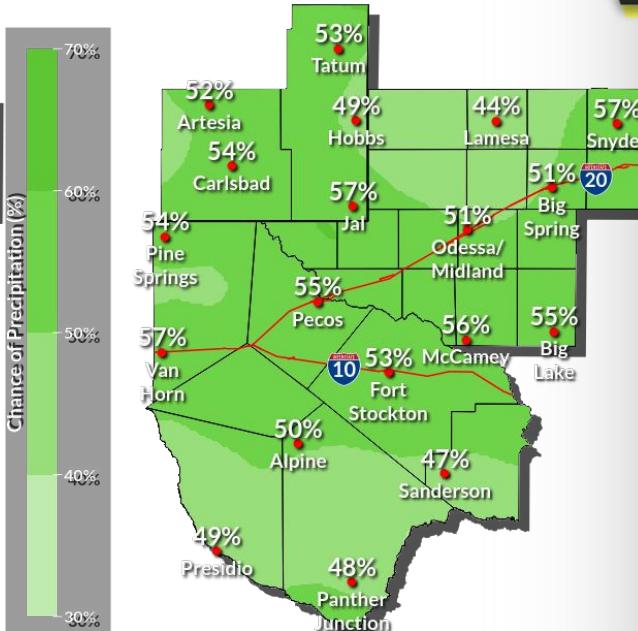
Precip Chances Saturday and Saturday Night

Latest info at weather.gov/Midland

Saturday Chances



Saturday Night Chances



Key Points

- Precipitation chances start to diminish somewhat through the day Saturday, though accumulations continue.
- Freezing rain gradually transitions to a sleet/snow mix throughout the day, beginning in SE NM and the northern Permian Basin.
- Wintry precip really begins to taper off by Saturday night and into Sunday morning as the system departs.



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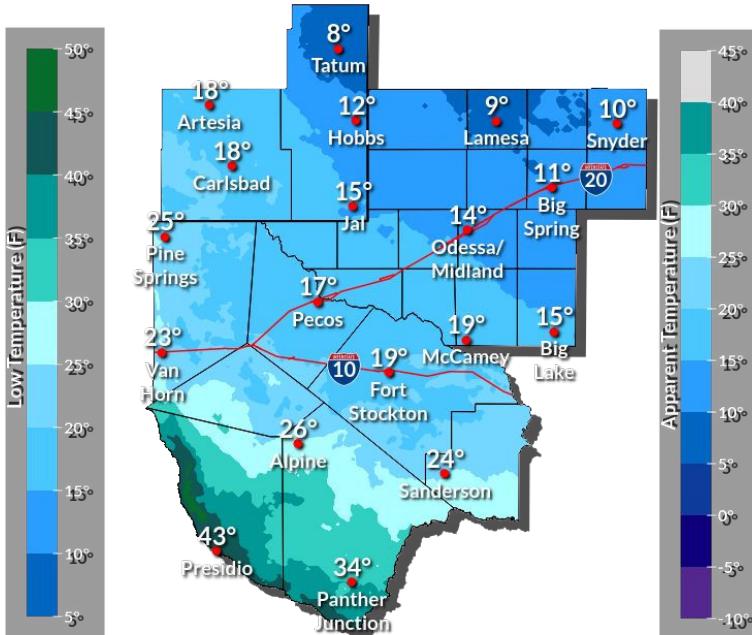
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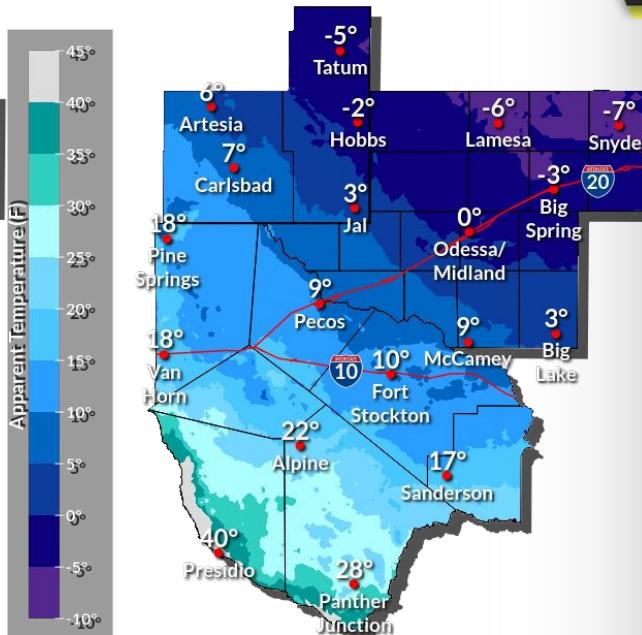
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Saturday Morning Temps and Wind Chills

Saturday Morning Temps



Saturday AM Wind Chill



Key Points

- Arctic air will send temperatures well into the 20s and teens across much of the area north of Highway 90 where any precipitation will be frozen.
- Wind chills will be as low as the single digits in southeastern New Mexico and the Permian Basin Saturday morning, with some wind chills less than 0°F in the far NE Permian Basin.



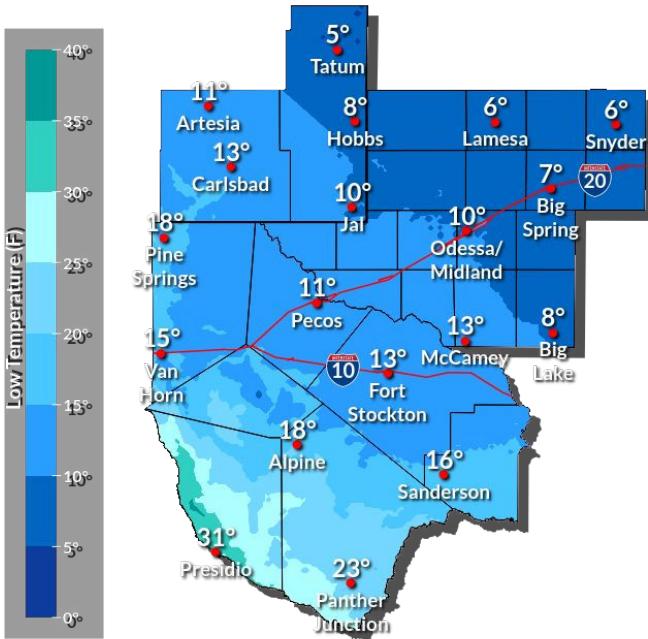
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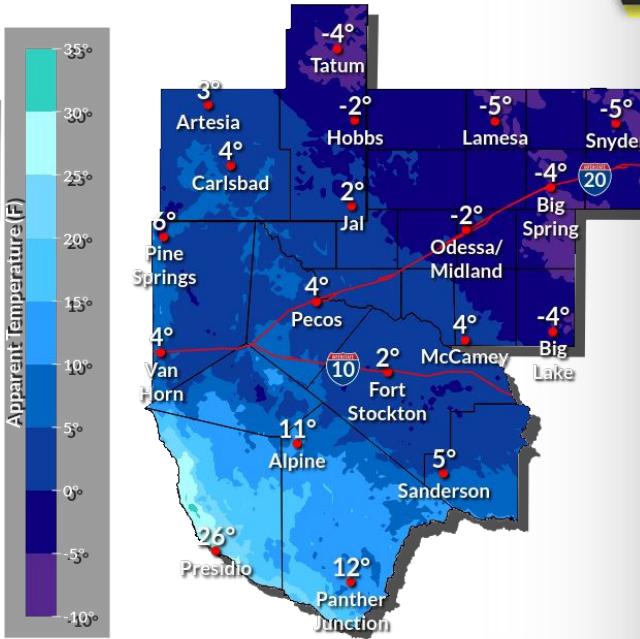
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Sunday Morning Temps and Wind Chills

Sunday Morning Temps



Sunday AM Wind Chill



Key Points

- Very cold temperatures continue into Sunday morning with lows in the single digits and teens over much of the area north of the Big Bend.
- Wind chills will be as low as near or just below zero in southeastern New Mexico and the Permian Basin Sunday morning and will be nearly as low Monday morning when schools are scheduled to open.



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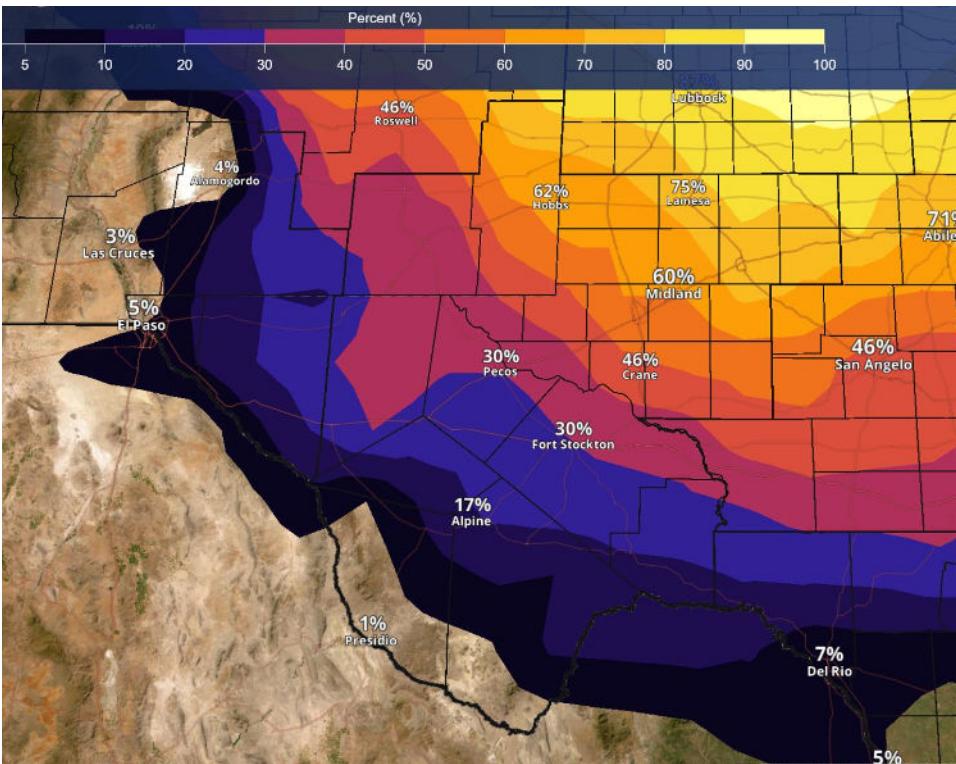
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Saturday Morning Wind Chill Probabilities

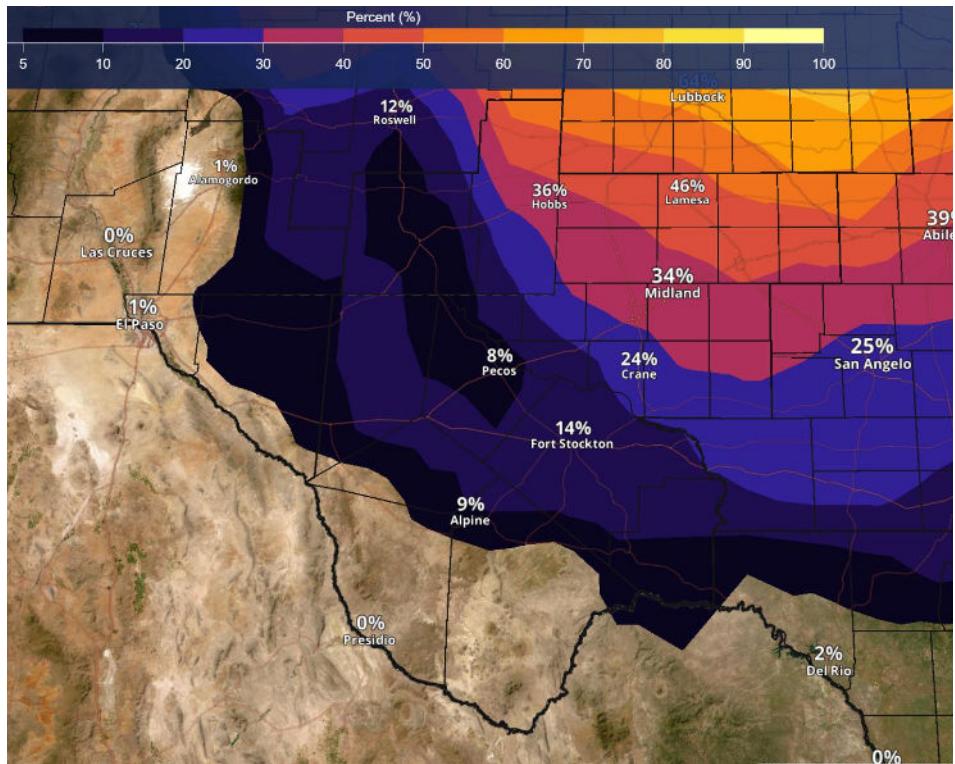
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Probability of Wind Chills < 10°F



Probability of Wind Chills < 0°F



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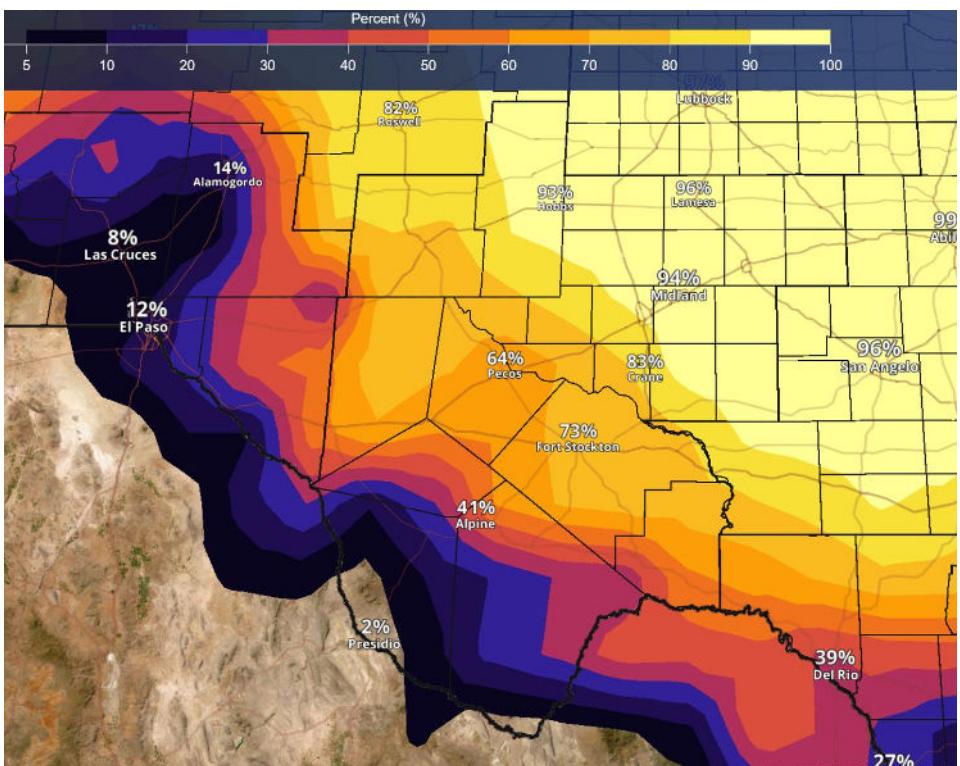
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Sunday Morning Wind Chill Probabilities

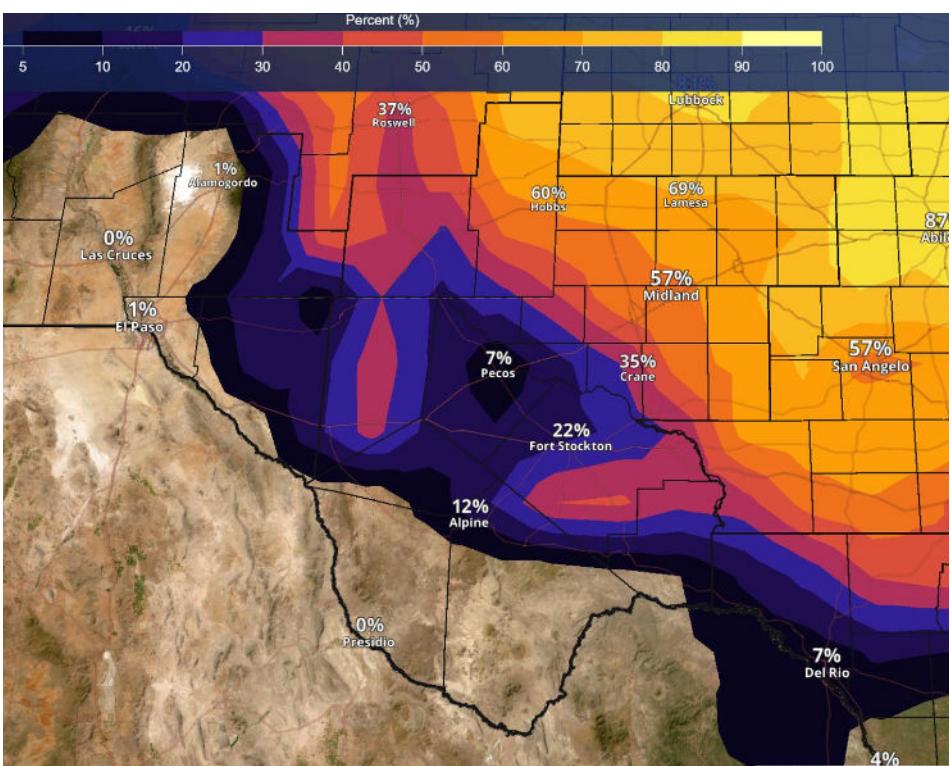
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Probability of Wind Chills < 10°F



Probability of Wind Chills < 0°F



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A photograph of a dark asphalt road curving through a forest of tall, thin trees. The ground and lower parts of the trees are covered in a layer of snow.

FREEZING RAIN IS THE WORST

- ◆ Freezing rain is more dangerous than snow, as ice can form on pavement
- ◆ Watch out for falling branches and powerlines
- ◆ Use extreme caution if you need to travel during these conditions



70% of snow and ice-related injuries occur in automobiles

Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you



Ice and Snow,
Take it Slow.



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Questions?

Reach NWS Midland by:

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By 5 PM CST Wednesday



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