



Severe Weather Event Scenario

This is an 18-hour severe weather event



Snowfall (Inches)

Freezing Rain Mix	Snow	Snow	
4-6	6-18	18-24	30+

Philadelphia/Trenton area – during 4-hour window of highest intensity

Air Temp	Pavement Temp	Wind Speed	Wind Gusts	Visibility



Severe Weather Event Scenario

Preparation Phase Scenario

- This is an 18-hour severe weather event starting approximately at 5 am on Wednesday morning the last half of November.
- It is the first major storm of the season.
- It starts as freezing rain as it crosses into PA and the Pittsburgh area but then as it moves east, it turns to snow and slowly intensifies in both speed and accumulation.
- Pavement temperature starts above freezing with dropping temps as storm progresses. Temps do not fall below 15 degrees F – salt can be applied
- Air temps falls from 36 degrees to 30 degrees as storm moves toward Philadelphia
- It stalls over Philadelphia and Trenton for 4 hours before heading up the coast to NYC and New England
- The storm transforms into a blizzard at it reaches Philadelphia with winds in excess of 40 mph and visibility of less than a 1/4 mile for more than 3 hours.
- There is a Plan for pre-treating as well as a response to ice accretion and snow accumulation
- Roads were treated overnight into early morning.
- Plow operators are able to go home and get some sleep before second activation.
- Ice accretion is expected before the storm turns to snow.
- Plan for possible trees and wires down and power outages due to wind and ice accretion
- Road Restrictions in place starting at noon for trucks but I-95 NJTA roadway is not restricted. Notifications are made to non-passenger vehicle agencies (trucking, transit)
- Message boards were set to notify the public of oncoming storm the previous day during pm commute.
- Overall snowfall accumulation totals end up being 24” in 18 hours





Severe Weather Event Scenario

Response Phase Scenario

- Icing Reports received in western PA around 5 am. The storm is slow moving at first; moving through the Ohio Valley entering western Pennsylvania around 5 am.
- Message boards have been reset to notify the public of road conditions and through 511.
- RWIS stations reporting temperatures of 33 degrees and ice warnings on arterial roadways.
- Plow trucks are treating roadways.
- TMC monitoring radio dispatch and receiving hourly reports from Maintenance Districts about road conditions.
- Statewide ITS devices are all activated.
- Midday traffic situation arrives in Philadelphia and Trenton areas.
- Road pavement is now 30 degrees based on RWIS readings.
- Commuters leave early to beat the storm. They have tried to get in half a day of work leaving for home around 12:30 pm – just as the storm starts to intensify.
- Storm stalls over the Philadelphia-Trenton area. Snow intensifies to greater than 1 inch per hour and plow routes challenged
- Congestion builds on I-276 heading WB.
- Phased restrictions are in place – NJTA is open.
- 1:30 pm: Tractor trailer overturns heading NB on I-95 Turnpike NB off ramp. PI involved. Truck slides across the road due to grade/incline and snow conditions. All lanes blocked.
- Multiple 911 calls start into PSAP and SP Dispatch; Medical response required along with towing. There are reports of accidents at multiple locations.
- 1:50 pm: Three car crash on I-276 WB after the I-95 SB off ramp, multiple vehicles involved; I-276 WB closed.
- Alternate detour routing required in NJ with TIM response required (by both states). Plow trucks detoured due to road closures
- Center to Center TMC activations are in process between NJ, PA and Maryland
- Message Boards updated for TIM incident; HELP activated; 511 updated
- Executive offices notified



Severe Weather Event Scenario

