

What is Wind Chill Temperature?

It is the temperature it "feels like" outside and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate causing the skin temperature to drop. Wind Chill does not impact inanimate objects like car radiators and exposed water pipes, because these objects cannot cool below the actual air temperature.



What does this mean to me?

The NWS will inform you when Wind Chill conditions reach critical thresholds. A **Wind Chill Warning** is issued when wind chill temperatures are life threatening. A **Wind Chill Advisory** is issued when wind chill temperatures are potentially hazardous.

What is Frostbite?

Frostbite is an injury to the body caused by freezing body tissue. The most susceptible parts of the body are the extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. Symptoms include a loss of feeling in the extremity and a white or pale appearance. Medical attention is needed immediately for frostbite. The area should be SLOWLY re-warmed.

What is Hypothermia?

Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature (below 95 degrees Fahrenheit). Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Medical attention is needed immediately. If it is not available, begin warming the body SLOWLY.

Tips on how to dress during cold weather.

- ✓ Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Trapped air between the layers will insulate you. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded.
- ✓ Wear a hat, because 40% of your body heat can be lost from your head.
- ✓ Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold.
- ✓ Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves.
- ✓ Try to stay dry and out of the wind.

For more Information on cold-related health problems and outdoor safety visit the web site from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/extremecold>

Visit the National Weather Service Wind Chill web page at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill/>

Visit Environment Canada's Wind Chill web page at: http://www.msc.ec.gc.ca/windchill/index_e.cfm

New!

Wind Chill Temperature Index



National Weather Service



*Serving the Nation
Since 1870*



