WEATHER WATCH -
Closing Schools for Inclement Weather
WEATHER WATCH

• **Accu-Weather Alert**
  – Up to 48 hours prior to potential storm arrival
  – General information about timing and impact of storm
  – 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

• **Accu-Weather Warning**
  – Advises storm is imminent
  – Specifics of storm-
    • Timing
    • Type and amount of precipitation
    • Temperature
    • Road conditions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>STORM ALERT</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 07-DEC-2005</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> 12:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fcstr:</strong> MS</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A. Chance of a Storm</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fair</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>B. Estimated Start Time</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. At 1-2 AM FRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. At ___ PM ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Any flurries before this start time will bring little or no accumulation.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>C. Storm Type</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. Snow 3-6 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Sleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Freezing Rain (Glaze)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Rain Turning to Snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Snow Turning to Rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Blowing and Drifting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Plowing Operation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>D. Estimated Storm Duration</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19A. &lt; 6 Hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19B. 6-12 Hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19C. 12-18 Hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19D. &gt; 18 Hrs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **E. Additional Comments** |
STORM WARNING
Exclusively For CARROLL COUNTY, MD
Thursday, 17-JAN-2008 Time: 3:50 AM Fcstr: MJK

H. Storm Will End
40. At ___ AM
41. At 2-4 PM THU
42. Timing Excellent
43. Timing Good
44. Timing Uncertain

I. Snow and Ice Accumulation
45. Snow Total: 1/2-2 inches
46. Ice Total: 0 inches
47. Additional Snow Accum.: "
48. Additional Ice Accum.: "
49. " by 4 PM Today
50. " by 6 AM Tomorrow
51. Two inches by

J. Snow Probability Potential
52. 45% Chance of 2" or more
53. 20% Chance of 4" or more
54. ___% Chance of 6" or more
55. ___% Chance of " or more
56. ___% Chance of ___" or more

K. Snow Type
57. Very Dry
58. Dry
59. Wet
60. Melting
61. Wet Becoming Dry
62. Dry Becoming Wet

L. Drifting
63. None
64. Light
65. Moderate
66. Severe
67. Becoming Moderate
68. Becoming Severe

M. Rain Type
69. Severe Freeze (Below 26°)
70. Freeze (26°-32°)
71. Cold (32°-35°)
72. Warm (Above 35°)
73. Becoming Warm

N. Freezing Rain Will Begin
74. At ___ AM
75. At ___ PM
76. Timing Excellent
77. Timing Good
78. Timing Uncertain

O. Effect of Rain
79. Turn Snow to Slush _TO START_
80. Wash Snow Away Slowly
81. Wash Snow Away Quickly
82. Make Roads Icy _CHANCE_
83. Icing On Trees/Power Lines
84. Localized Flooding

P. Temperatures and Winds
85. Thursday
6 AM 28 Speed 4 mph
Noon 30 Gusts 13 mph
4 PM 32 Direction ENE
10 PM 33 Becoming

Q. Temperatures and Winds
86. Friday
6 AM 29 Speed 13 mph
Noon 44 Gusts 24 mph
4 PM 43 Direction WNW
10 PM 31 Becoming

R. Untreated Road Conditions
87. Main Roads Snow Covered
88. Main Roads Slushy _IN SPOTS_
89. Main Roads Icy in Spots
90. Main Roads Icy
91. Main Roads Wet
92. Secondary Roads Snow Covered _IN SPOTS_
93. Secondary Roads Slushy
94. Secondary Roads Icy
95. Secondary Roads Icy in Spots
96. Secondary Roads Wet

S. Special Problems
97. Wet Roads May Freeze _CHANCE_
98. Slush Will Freeze
99. Rapid Change to Colder
100. Icing on Bridges
101. Icing at Intersections
102. Heavy Snow will Begin
103. Heavy Snow Will End

T. Weather Following Storm
104. Flurries - Insignificant
105. Flurries - Little or No Accum.
106. Snow/Flurries - Stmnt. to Follow
107. Freezing Drizzle
108. Hard Freeze
109. Rapid Freezeup After 4 PM
110. Ponged Melting
111. Thaw Tonight
112. Thaw Tomorrow
113. Thaw
114. Thaw Today/Freezeup Tonight
115. Days and Nights Below 32°
116. Days Above 32°/Nights Below 32°
117. Very Windy
118. Drifting to Continue
119. Next Storm Possible

U. Additional Comments
WEATHER WATCH

• On The Road
  – 3:00 a.m. – start snow watch
  – Alert Maryland State Police
  – Four administrators travel the county divided into 4 quadrants
    • State roads – main
    • County roads – secondary
    • Developments
    • School parking lots, school sidewalks
Contacts

• Transportation administrators
  – Frederick, Baltimore, Howard and Washington Counties
• State Highway Administration
• Carroll County Roads Department
• CCPS Maintenance Department
• 2-way radio amongst 4 administrators throughout the time on road
ROAD EVALUATION

• Driving conditions
  – Traction
  – Stop on inclines
  – Start on inclines
  – Braking distance
• Amount of snow on roadway
• Ice
• Black ice
• Road temperature
• Status of salting and plowing operations
MAKING A RECOMMENDATION

• 5:00 A.M. – 5:30 A.M.
  – Recheck weather stations
  – Re-contact County Roads
  – Re-contact Maryland State Police
  – Re-contact State Roads
  – Update of storm patterns in surrounding counties
  – Review quadrant findings
  – Call Superintendent with recommendation
MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT

- Local media
- Channel 21
- SchoolMessenger parent notification system
- CCPS website, Facebook & Twitter
- E-mail
INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING THE DAY
(EARLY DISMISSAL)

• Contact weather stations – predictions of timing, amount and temperature
• Travel 4 quadrants – driving conditions
• Contact Maryland State Highway Administration
• Contact Carroll County Roads
• Contact Maryland State Police
• Contact surrounding counties
• Make a decision
  – 10:00 a.m.  3-hour early dismissal
  – 11:00 a.m.  2-hour early dismissal
  – 12:00 p.m.  1-hour early dismissal
  – Road conditions throughout storm – get better/get worse?
BUSES TRAVELING IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 16,000 plus pounds
- Radial tires
- Automatic/manual chains
- Automatic transmissions
- ABS braking systems
- Driven by trained, professional drivers
- 100 times safer than cars
CHALLENGES OF MAKING THE CALL

- Inaccurate weather forecasts
- County elevation
- Timing of storm
- Rapidly changing weather conditions
- Temperature changes
- Black Ice
- Drops in temperature not predicted
- Flurries turning into four inches of snow
- Driving skills of motoring public
- Timing of call – pre-trips start at 5:00 a.m.
- Different conditions in different parts of county
- Motoring public – rush hour
- Carroll temperatures lower than surrounding counties
- Carroll weather gets same amount of snow as Allegany County
- Need to attend school
- Good call!
QUESTIONS