

Tuesday, January 25, 2011 - 8:00 PM

Good Evening --

It now appears that a moderate winter weather event will impact the Barnegat/Ocean Township area mainly Wednesday evening into early Thursday morning. As a result, a Winter Storm Watch has been posted for most of New Jersey, including Ocean County. Snow accumulation of 4-7 inches are now possible with this approaching coastal storm. As with any coastal storm, a minor change in storm track or intensity can have a significant affect on eventual snow accumulation. There has been an upward trend with snow accumulations with this storm system over the past 12 hours as weather models have it taking a more favorable snow track as it passes New Jersey.

Snow should start falling during the early morning hours (between 3-5am) on Wednesday. A coating to a quick inch of snow can accumulate before snow changes to a wintry mix and then to all rain by noon on Wednesday. The Wednesday morning rush will be icy as frozen precipitation should still be falling.

Rain should fall Wednesday afternoon and change back to snow by sunset, with heavy snow possible during the overnight hours. That is when the 4-7 inches of snow will accumulate. Snow should end by sunrise on Thursday. The Wednesday evening commute will be mainly wet but might start to turn icy after sunset. There is no question that the Thursday morning commute will be hazardous. Regardless of the weather conditions, Barnegat and Ocean Townships are fully prepared to respond. The fleet is operational in both towns, adequate salt supplies are on hand and staff is aware of the pending storm. There most likely will be a need to salt roads early Wednesday morning in order to prepare for the morning rush. As usual, schools will receive special attention. Based on current weather forecast, it will be a plowing operation Wednesday night into Thursday. Once the Townships start to plow, it will be a constant effort to make sure all roads are plowed along with treating with salt all major, primary and secondary roads.

Will keep all advised ... Dave