

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 - 5:00 AM

Good Morning All --

Temperatures have risen to slightly above freezing overnight and any precipitation that falls this morning should be mostly rain. With the exception of some isolated icy road conditions mainly in the extreme western part of Barnegat and Ocean Townships, the morning commute should not be an issue.

A Winter Storm Warning has been posted for most of New Jersey including Ocean County for Wednesday night and early Thursday morning. The Barnegat/Ocean Township area will experience periodic rain during the day on Wednesday with a change over to snow between 5pm - 8pm Wednesday evening. There will be periods of heavy snow overnight with snow accumulating 4-7 inches. Heavier snow accumulation will be experienced in the western parts of both Townships. Winds will increase during the overnight hours with gusts over 30mph at times. Snow should end by sunrise on Thursday.

The Thursday morning commute will be difficult as many roads will be snow covered. Both Barnegat and Ocean Townships are prepared for this winter storm. Trucks and equipment are ready to go, adequate salt supplies are on hand and staff is aware of the pending storm. Once precipitation changes over to snow this evening, the initial response will be a salting operation of the major and primary roads. When snow depths are deep enough, plows will be lowered and it will then become a plowing operation that will continue for all of Thursday. Finally, a minor snow event is now being forecast for Friday night.

In summary, it should rain on Wednesday with a change over to snow early this evening. It will snow heavily at times overnight and will accumulate 4-7 inches, with the larger amounts in the western parts of the Township. Winds will increase overnight and occasionally gust over 30mph.

Dave