

# Strong Winds and Snow Squalls Today

## Overview

### Strong Winds and Snow Squalls Today



Winds: All Day  
Showers: Through 8pm



Gust > 45 MPH



Rapid drops in visibility

*Wind chills in the upper 30s to lower 40s*

NWS Chicago | 4/9/2020 12:00 PM CDT



### Weather Message of the Day:



- Scattered snow/graupel showers through early evening
  - Snow could be heavy at times
- Wind Advisory in effect areawide until 7:00pm
  - Northwest winds 25-35 mph with gusts up to 45 mph.
  - Gusts of **45 to possibly locally over 55 mph** expected with the heavier snow squalls

### Important Forecast Changes



This is the first issuance. No additional SitReps are anticipated.

## Graupel / Snow Showers Today

### Key Points

#### Information:

#### Timing:

- Through 8 PM CDT
- Peak coverage 2 - 6 PM CDT

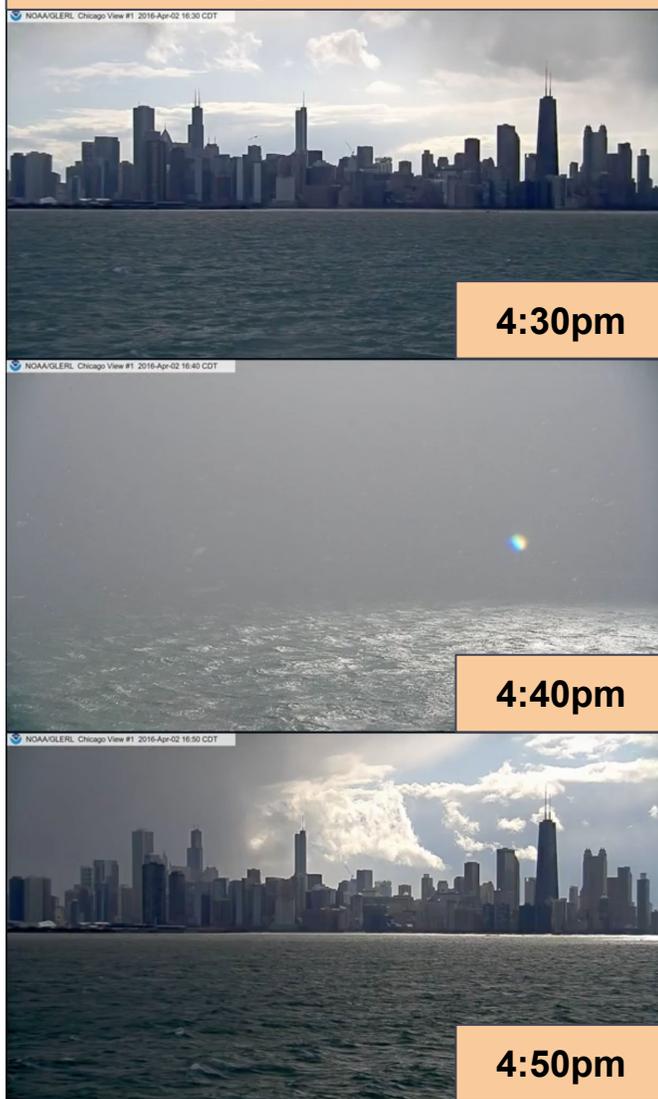
#### Impacts:

- Vis < 1 mile in snow squall
- Surfaces temporarily slick
- Strong wind gusts locally of 45 to 55+ mph will be possible in the heaviest squalls.

#### What is a Snow Squall?

- Sudden moderately heavy snow
- Strong, gusty surface winds resulting in blowing snow
- Sharp drops in visibility or “whiteout” conditions
- Often short in duration

#### Example from Similar Past Event April 2, 2016



## Graupel / Snow Showers Today

### Key Points



## What is Graupel?

Knowing Different Frozen Precipitation Types

### GRAUPEL



Snowflakes that collect supercooled water droplets on the outer surface.

Forms above freezing at the surface but very cold aloft

### HAIL



“Ball of ice” from thunderstorms

Forms in strong upward winds that loft raindrops into below freezing area in thunderstorms

### SLEET



Liquid precipitation that freezes before it reaches the ground

Forms near or below freezing at the surface and warm aloft

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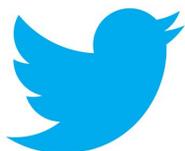
- Some areas may see graupel rather than snow in some of the showers.



## Other Resources

- [Check out our Weather Watcher webpage](#)– ideal for someone in charge of monitoring the weather ahead of and during an event!
- [Information on storm safety and storm preparedness](#)
- [Enhanced Hazardous Weather Outlook](#) – helps you figure out which days you need to be mindful of hazardous weather!

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