

WINTER WEATHER COORDINATION PROGRAM

COG Department of Homeland Security & Public Safety

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COG Board of Directors
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Agenda Item #7

NCR Winter Weather Plan

- Originating in 1987, purpose is to regionally coordinate and share information among a range of government and strategic stakeholders to minimize severe winter weather-related disruptions.
- Commences primarily with issued winter weather products that will impact weekday commuting.
- The Plan's COG winter weather coordination calls are the capstone to a multi-agency severe weather regional coordination process focused on transportation and roadway maintenance.

WINTER WEATHER PLAN

2025-2026 Regional Coordination Plan for Winter Weather in the National Capital Region

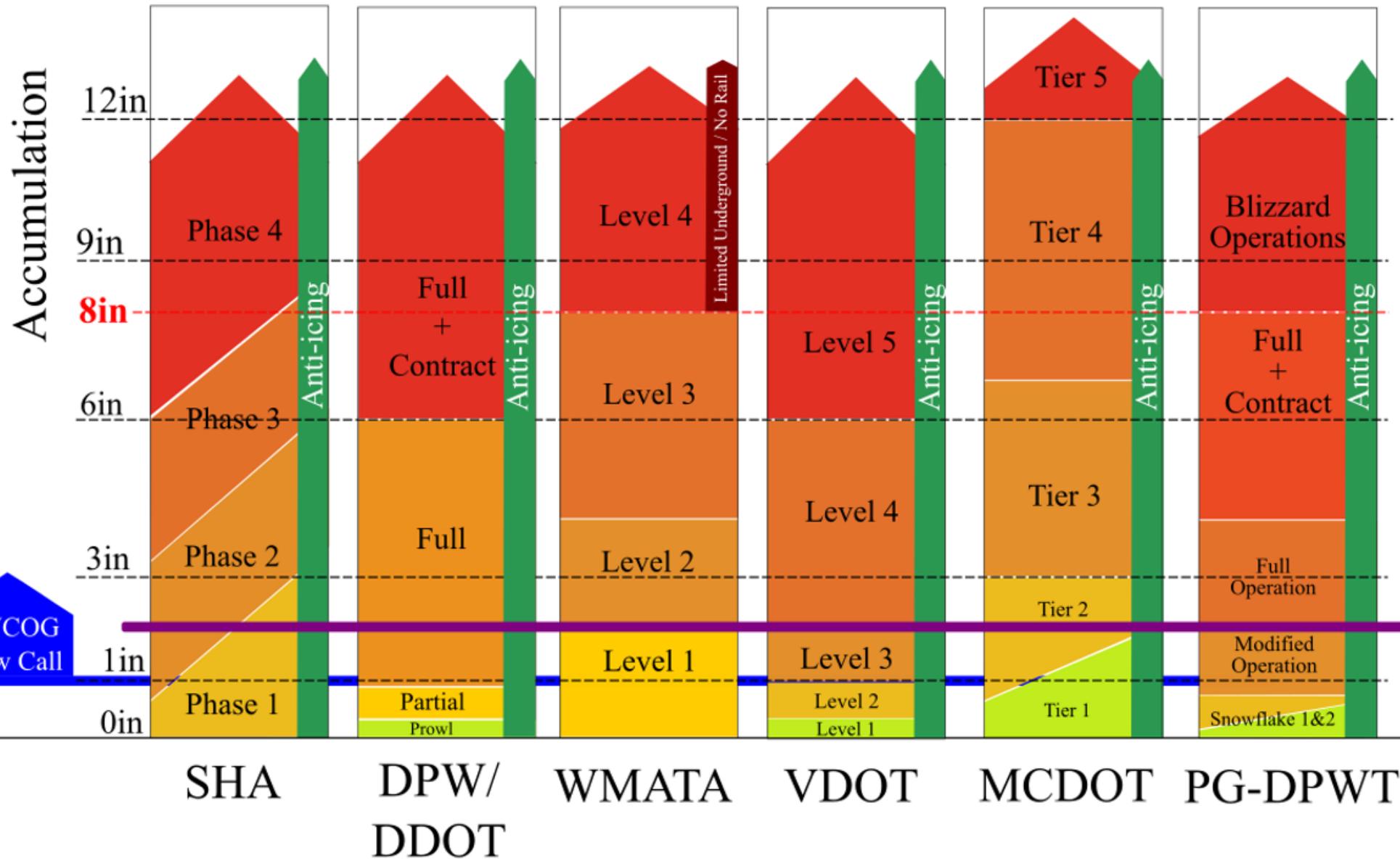
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 Metropolitan Washington
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Agency Mobilization Levels



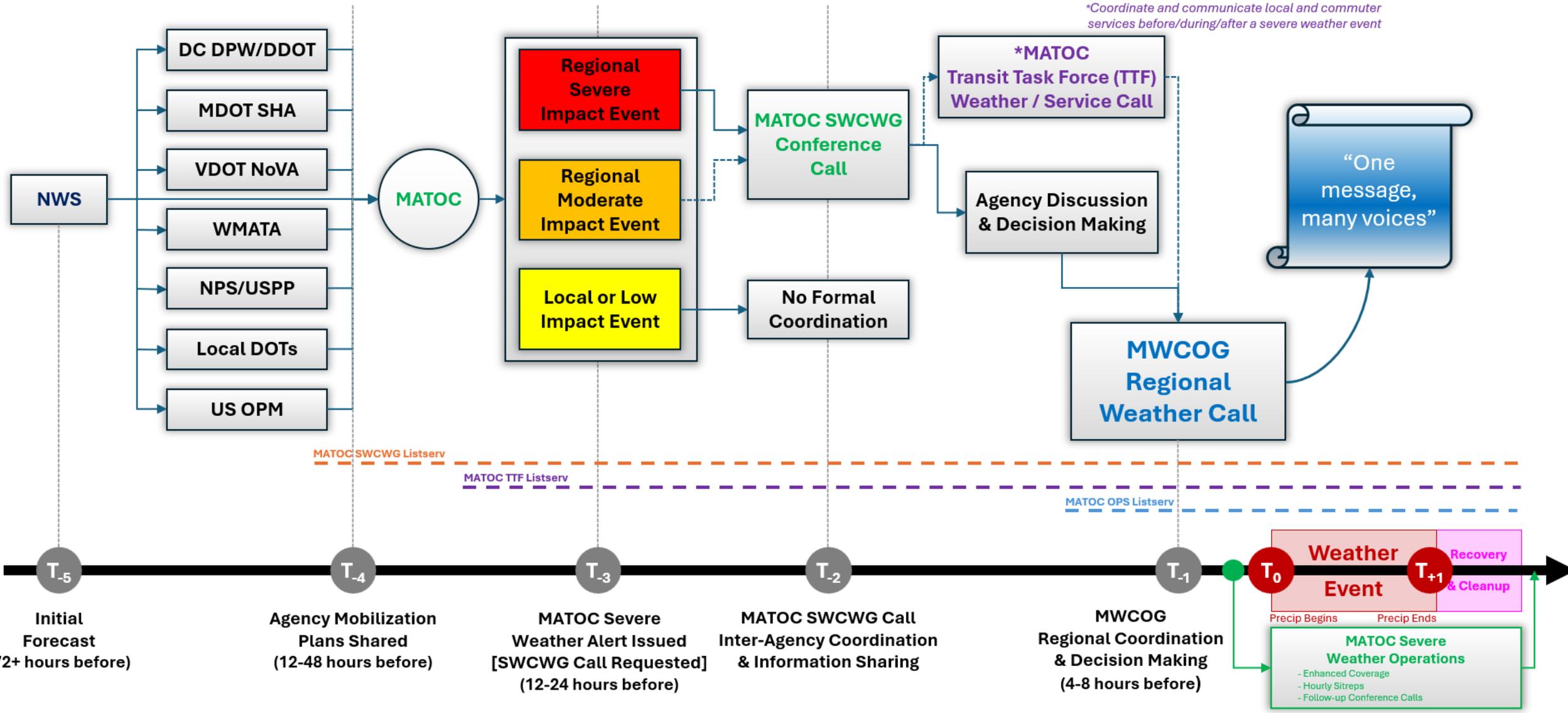
MATOC Winter Weather Alert Criteria

- Snow: 2" or more accumulation
- Rate: >1" per hour
- Any Ice/Freezing Rain
- Regionwide impacts
- Agency mobilization levels
- Precip timing, onset, intensity, duration, changeover

Road Conditions Table

Transportation System Status Levels		Suggested terminology and <i>PIO templates</i>
<p>Road Condition 5: IMPASSABLE/ DANGEROUS/ TREACHEROUS</p> <p>Some roads could be temporarily impassable. This may be the result of severe weather (low visibility, etc.) or road conditions (drifting, excessive unplowed snow, glare, ice, accidents, stranded vehicles, etc.) Skeletal transit services. Limited above-ground rail service if more than 8" of accumulation. Lane drops in certain sections.</p>		<p>"treacherous", "impassable", "dangerous" <i>Be where you need to be by <time>.</i> <i>Get where you need to be before the weather gets bad.</i> <i>Stay where you are.</i></p>
<p>Road Condition 4: ICY/SNOW PACKED</p> <p>The pavement surface is covered with packed snow and/or ice. There may be loose snow on top of the icy or packed snow surface. Transit lifeline services only with significant delays for rail and bus. Refreeze possible. Lane drops in certain sections.</p>		<p>"unsafe", "impassable" "major delays" <i>Be where you need to be by <time>.</i> <i>Avoid or postpone travel for next <hours>.</i> <i>Stay at the office an extra <hour>, or leave early, to avoid travel during a winter storm.</i></p>
<p>Road Condition 3: SNOW AND/OR SLUSH COVERED</p> <p>The pavement surface has continuous stretches of packed snow with or without loose snow on top of the packed snow or ice. Core bus services only, delays in rail services. Lane drops on certain sections of roadways.</p>		<p>"caution", "passable" <i>Avoid being stranded at bus stops</i> <i>Avoid or postpone travel for next <hours>.</i> <i>Stay off the roads.</i> <i>Stay at the office an extra <hour>, or leave early, to avoid travel during a winter storm.</i></p>
<p>Road Condition 2: SNOW / SLUSH COVERED W/ WHEEL TRACKS EXPOSED</p> <p>Accumulations of loose snow or slush up to 2 inches are found on the pavement surface. Packed and bonded snow and ice are not present. Regular transit services with some minor exceptions and detours for buses. Drifting snow.</p>		<p>"passable" <i>Avoid discretionary travel. Road crews engaged in clearing activities.</i> <i>Curtail "elective" travel. Avoid unnecessary travel.</i></p>
<p>Road Condition 1: CLEAR WET/DRY</p> <p>Clear and wet/dry pavement surface is the general condition. There are occasional areas having snow or ice accumulations resulting in drifting, sheltering, cold spots, frozen melt-water, etc. Transit operations per schedules.</p>		<p>"passable"</p>

MATOC Severe Weather Coordination Timeline



Additional COG Winter Weather Initiatives

- Winter Salt Smart and Protect Your Pipes Campaigns
- Salt Monitoring Project
- Cooperative Purchasing Program
 - Regional Contracts Database
- Member of Transportation Research Board's Standing Technical Committee on Winter Maintenance and Response to Weather Events

Be Winter Salt Smart!

SPREAD EVENLY

Try not to distribute your salt in clumps or patches.

[#WinterSaltSmart](#)

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Prevent frozen pipes this winter

- Set your thermostat above 55 degrees, especially if you will be away for an extended time.
- Wrap pipes with insulation or even newspaper if they are exposed to cold air.
- Close off crawl spaces, seal drafty windows and doors, and insulate walls and attics to eliminate cold air sources near pipes.



