

Winter Storms of Dec. 26-27,2010 and Jan. 12, 2011

Joseph Dellicarpini
NOAA / National Weather Service
Taunton, MA

The winter of 2010-2011 featured above average snowfall in southern New England and will be remembered for a number of significant snowstorms within a six week period beginning just after Christmas. Two of these storms will be discussed, not only because of their impact, but due to differences in their predictability.

The first storm on December 26-27, 2010 brought heavy snow to much of the East Coast. Winds gusted to over 60 mph across parts of southern New England where near blizzard conditions were observed. This was a high impact storm which disrupted air, rail, and road travel at the end of the Christmas weekend. Airlines canceled over 300 flights in the busy Northeast Corridor. Despite being a significant snowstorm, differences in computer model forecasts led to low confidence in snowfall totals until almost 24 hours before the snow began. Another winter storm followed on January 12, 2011 and dumped up to two feet of snow in a 24 hour period. Strong winds combined with the heavy snow along the coast and brought down trees and wires, resulting in over 100,000 homes without power. Logan International Airport closed for several hours during the storm. In contrast to the December snowstorm, forecasters had a much higher level of confidence due to more consistent forecasts from computer models. This presentation will briefly review both storms, including the predictability issues associated with each of them.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Joseph Dellicarpini is the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service in Taunton, MA. He is a native of the New York City area and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from the State University of New York at Oswego.

His career with the National Weather Service began as a Student Trainee in Boston before going to the Binghamton, NY Weather Forecast Office (WFO) as a Meteorologist Intern. He returned to southern New England in 1996 as a Hydrologic Forecaster at the Northeast River Forecast Center in Taunton, before heading back to the WFO as both a General Forecaster and Senior Forecaster. One of Joe's interests includes aviation meteorology. He is also involved with several regional and national teams related to aviation forecasting, and assists with training at the NWS Center Weather Service Unit at the Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center in Nashua, NH. Joe and his wife Kelly have two children, Jessica and Jason. They live in Norwood, MA.

The Winter Storms of 2010 and 2011, From the Viewpoint of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Kurt N. Schwartz
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Framingham, Massachusetts

The major winter storms of December 2010 and January 2011 will be discussed with a focus on impacts dealt with by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Kurt N. Schwartz serves as the Undersecretary for Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). Mr. Schwartz, who was first appointed as an Undersecretary by Governor Patrick in 2007, provides strategic leadership to the Massachusetts National Guard, the Department of Fire Services, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, and EOPSS's Homeland Security Division. Mr. Schwartz also serves as the Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency where he oversees a staff of 80 people and an \$8M operating budget. Mr. Schwartz also serves as the state's Homeland Security Advisor and member of the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council under the umbrella of the National Governors Association.

Prior to serving as the Undersecretary for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Mr. Schwartz served in the Patrick administration as the Undersecretary for Law Enforcement and Fire Services, where he provided strategic leadership to the Massachusetts State Police, Department of Fire Services, Office of Grants & Research, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Municipal Police Training Committee and Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Schwartz has also worked as a full-time police officer in Massachusetts, and as an emergency medical technician. He is a graduate of Boston College Law School and Wesleyan University.

The Winter Storms of 2010/2011: Transportation Impacts

Jeffrey B. Mullan
Former Secretary & CEO, Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation
Boston, MA

The major winter storms of December 2010 and January 2011 will be discussed with a focus on the impacts dealt with by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Jeff Mullan is the former Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) which was launched on November 1, 2009. Appointed by Governor Deval Patrick, Jeff was a key architect of the reform plan to create MassDOT, a new, unified transportation organization focused on customer service and safety. During his tenure as Secretary, Jeff brought a business-like approach to state transportation, developing its first strategic plan, reducing costs, setting measurable performance objectives, and working to improve workplace culture.

Jeff has been involved in Massachusetts transportation issues for more than 20 years. Prior to being named Secretary, he served as the Executive Director of the former Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, and as Undersecretary, Chief Operating Officer, and General Counsel at the former Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT). Both of those organizations are now a part of MassDOT.

Currently, Jeff works as an attorney at Foley Hoag LLP. Prior to 2007, he worked at Foley Hoag LLP for 14 years, where he was a partner and the co-chair of the firm's administrative law practice. Before joining Foley Hoag, Mullan worked at the former Massachusetts Department of Public Works as Right of Way Manager on the Central Artery/Tunnel Project. He is a Worcester native and now lives in Milton.

How Did the December 26 -27, 2010 Nor'easter Measure Up?

Joseph E. Pelczarski
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Boston, Massachusetts

Tidal heights, storm surge, wave heights, wind strength and direction, and the damages of the December 26-27 Nor'easter will be compared to past storms affecting the east facing coast of Massachusetts.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Joe Pelczarski is the CZM and EEA Emergency Management Liaison to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. Joe has been in the position since 1991, coordinating the environmental agencies' response to notable storms like Hurricane Bob and the No-Name Nor'easter. Over the years, Joe has been activated to the State Emergency Operations Center for many nor'easters, several flooding events, a few hurricanes, Y2K, 9/11, the anthrax scare, and the red tide outbreak in 2005.

Media Blizzard Coverage

Matt Noyes
New England Cable News (NECN)
Newton, Massachusetts

In an age of 24-hour news cycles – and at New England Cable News, a 24-hour regional news station that covers weather-centric New England – weather rules when a storm bears down. Some may cry hype; others profess to be disgusted by the coverage – but the bottom line is that weather brings viewers. Continuous coverage of weather events, however, doesn't have to be all about hype and cliches – rather, it can be an opportunity for scientific analysis and discussion...or at least in-depth weather discussion...IF you have producers and a management who allow it. Thankfully, at NECN, we have that liberty!

PRESENTER'S BIO

Matt Noyes is the primetime weeknight meteorologist and Executive Producer of Meteorology for New England Cable News (NECN), the nation's largest and most honored 24-hour regional news network, broadcasting to nearly four million households in all six New England states. He began as the weekend meteorologist at NECN in 2002, and served as weekday morning meteorologist from 2004 until 2010.

Matt holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Cornell University, and is a member of both the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. Matt enjoys making the weather interesting and accessible to all, speaking at various weather conferences and keeps the network's weather team on the cutting edge of forecast and presentation technology. Noyes has traveled across the nation serving as a consultant for TV weather graphics, served as sole media representative on a national panel for the Climate Prediction Center and has worked closely with the Northeast River Forecast Center in evaluation of operational forecast products.

In addition to his forecasting experience, Noyes was an instructor of Introductory Meteorology at the college level in Binghamton, NY, and has traveled across New England to bring the science of meteorology into school classrooms, visiting 10,000 school children per year, and receiving a commendation from the Massachusetts State Senate for his educational efforts with children.

Matt's community dedication also earned him the Massachusetts State Police Public Service Award for assisting the organization in preparation for a major hurricane strike to New England, and he provided street level weather forecasting and analysis to the State Police Integrated Command Center during the Democratic National Convention in Boston in 2004.

Noyes also conducts private forecasting for aviators, providing forecasts that have led to national victories in races requiring no use of instrumentation during flight, and to private mariners.

Before joining the NECN family, Matt was the Morning Meteorologist at NewsChannel 34 in Binghamton, NY, and a meteorologist at NewsChannel 9 in Syracuse, NY.