



## Warm Winter Storms Next Week

National Weather Service – Fairbanks, AK

Issued: 4:00 PM AKST Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Valid: Tuesday February 21 - Thursday February 24

Point of Contact: NWS Fairbanks Operations. 907-458-3709 or [fairbanks.weather@noaa.gov](mailto:fairbanks.weather@noaa.gov)

### Major Impacts Possible

This includes rare events that could have major impacts on commerce. Precautions necessary to protect lives and property.

### CHANGES SINCE PREVIOUS BRIEFING

- All the Winter Storm Watches have been upgraded to either Winter Storm Watches or Blizzard Warnings. There are no significant changes to the forecasts since the last briefing. See graphics below for details.

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

What	When	Where	Impacts	Confidence
Blizzard Conditions	Early Tuesday Morning through Thursday	Coastal areas from the Hooper Bay to Point Hope.	Near zero visibility, large snow drifts	High
Heavy Snow	Tuesday and then Wednesday Night into Thursday	West Coast of Alaska and Western Interior	Travel could be difficult; reduced visibilities	High
Freezing Rain	Tuesday Night through Thursday	Yukon Delta north to Nome, Koyuk, and Kaltag.	Slick conditions, travel may be difficult	Moderate
Winds (Gusts of 40-60 mph)	Tuesday Night through Thursday	Yukon Delta through coastal communities along Norton Sound and into the Seward Peninsula and along the coast to Point Hope.	Localized power outages Unsecured objects may be blown around Winds may cause damage to property	High
Coastal Ice	Wednesday through Thursday	Seward Peninsula south to the Yukon Delta	Water may rise up through cracks in the sea ice along the Bering Sea coast	Low

### FORECAST DETAILS

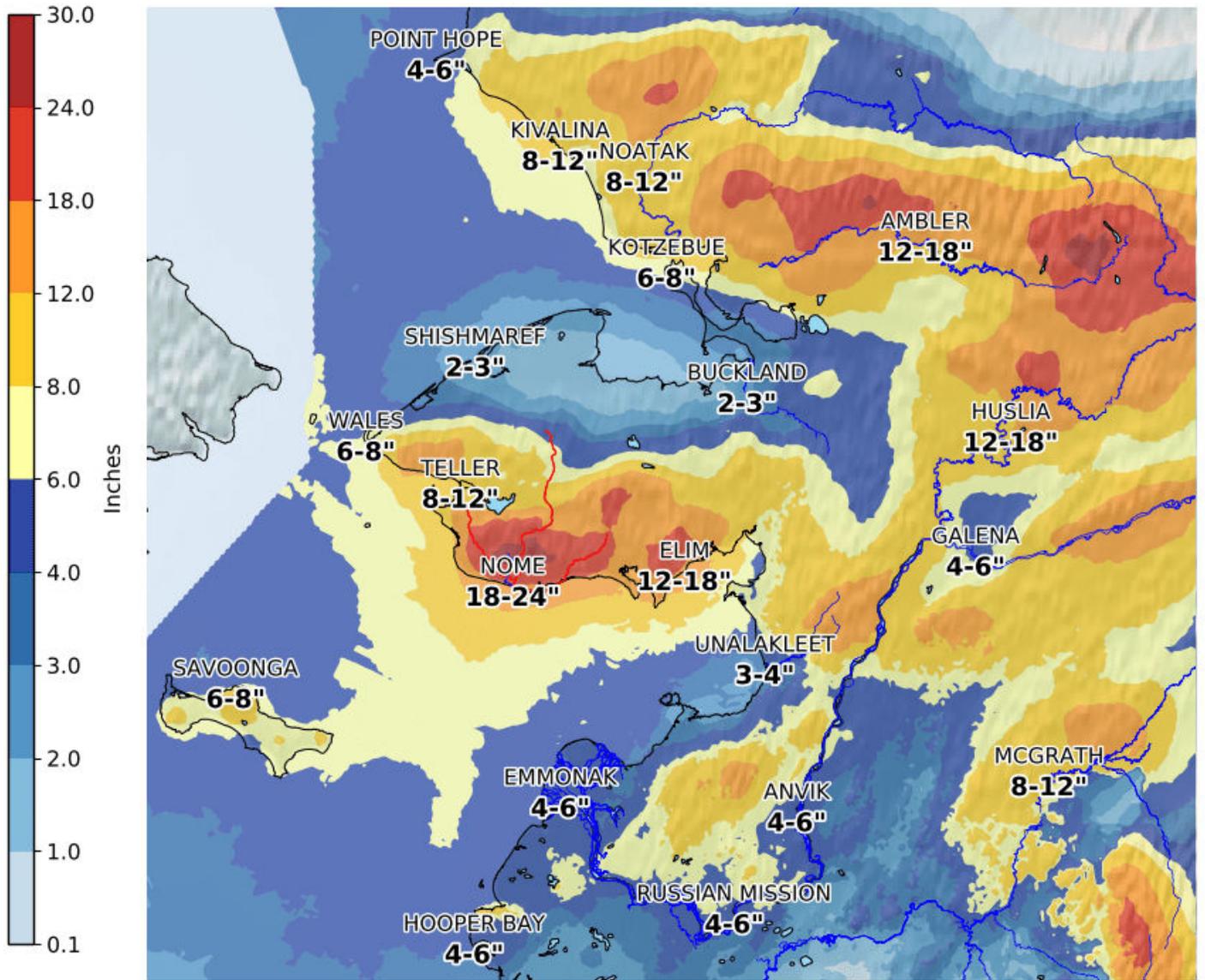
Two storms will impact Western Alaska. The first system will arrive Tuesday morning with a brief break Tuesday night before the next system moves into the area Wednesday morning.

- Blizzard conditions are likely for coastal communities from the Yukon Delta to Kotzebue Sound and the Chukchi Sea coast.
- Strong gusty winds from 40 to 60 mph with local higher gusts possible near Wales. The strongest winds will be along the coast, with lighter winds inland.
- Snowfall totals will be quite variable depending on location. 1-2 feet of snow is possible along the southern Seward Peninsula and in the Northwest Brooks Range.
- The best chance for freezing rain will be on Wednesday from the Yukon Delta to Nome and Koyuk and east to Kaltag. Accumulations will range from a trace to 1 tenth of an inch of ice.
- In addition, strong southwesterly winds may elevate water levels and cause water to rise up through cracks in the sea ice along the Bering Sea coast Wednesday and Thursday.

**See the images below for details about peak wind gusts and snowfall and ice accumulation.**

# Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 3AM Tuesday to 3PM Thursday



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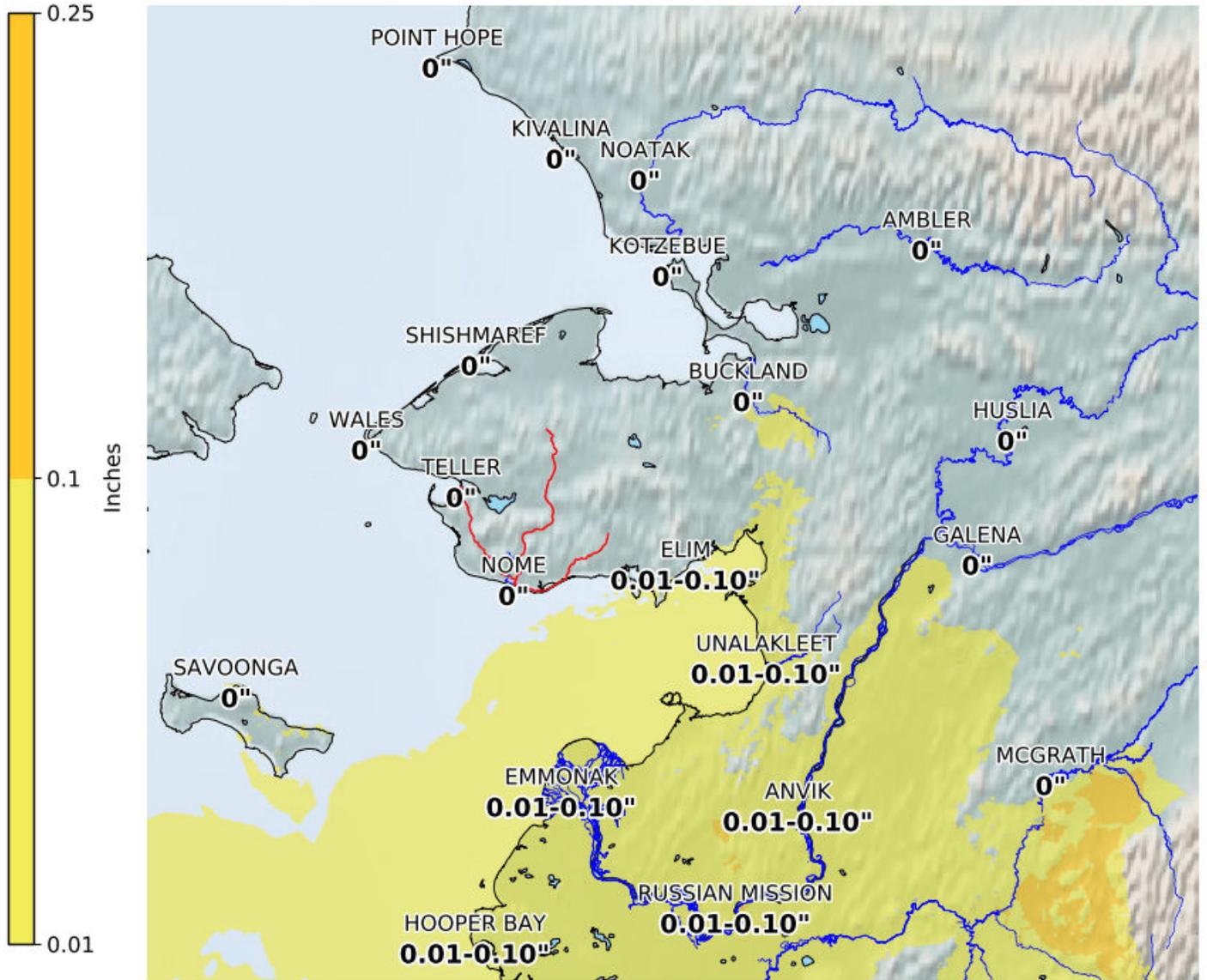
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# Expected Ice Accumulation- Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 9AM Tuesday to 9AM Thursday



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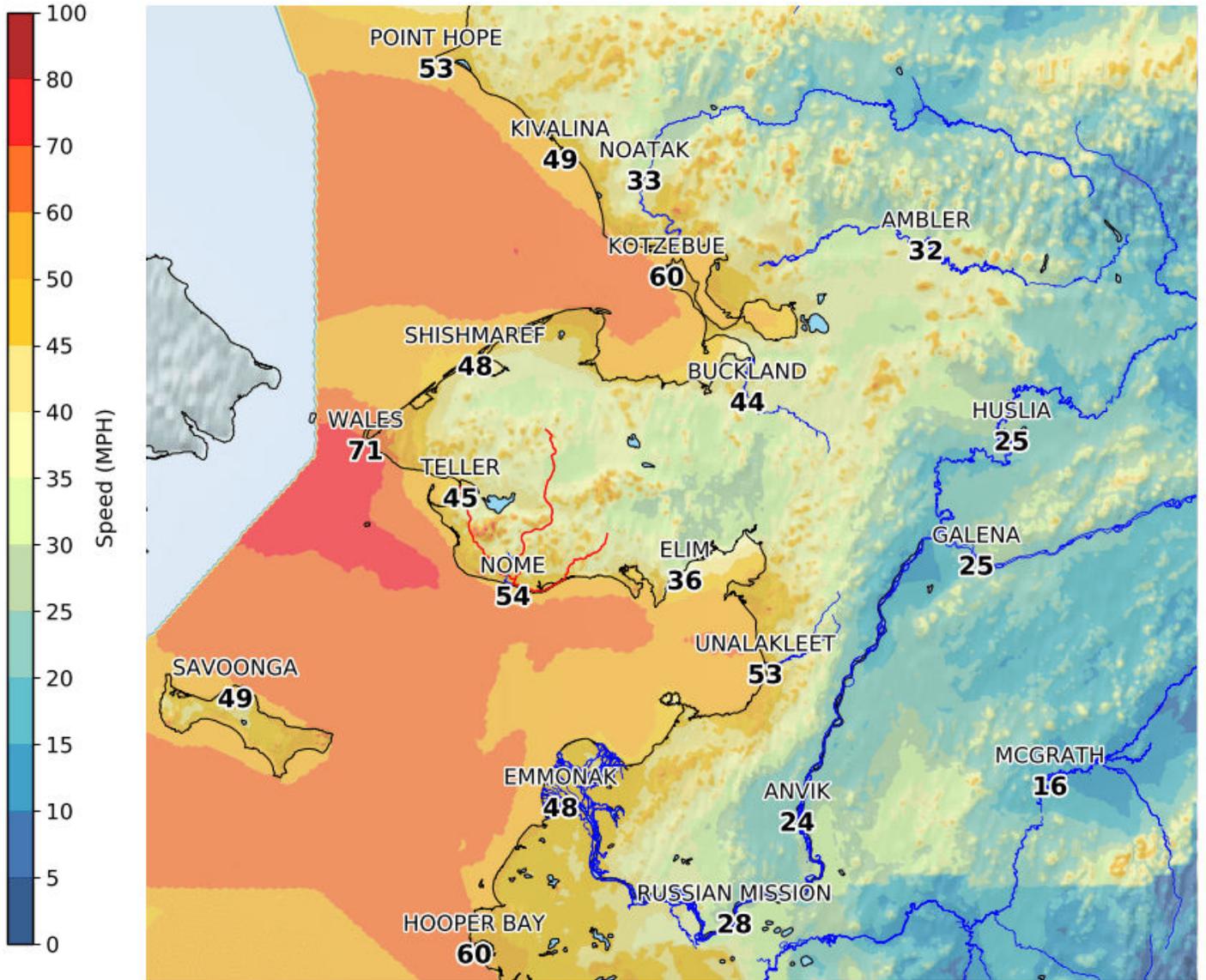
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# Wind Gusts

Valid: 3AM Tuesday to 3AM Wednesday



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