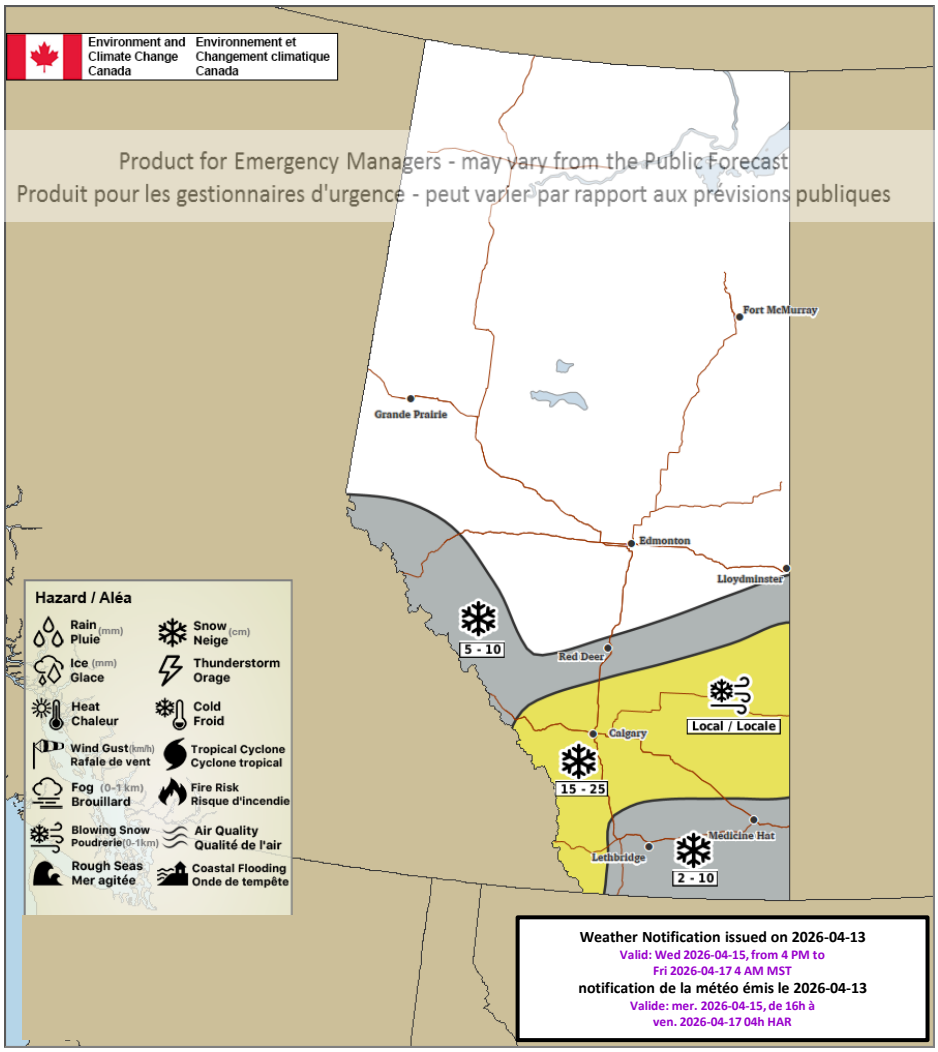
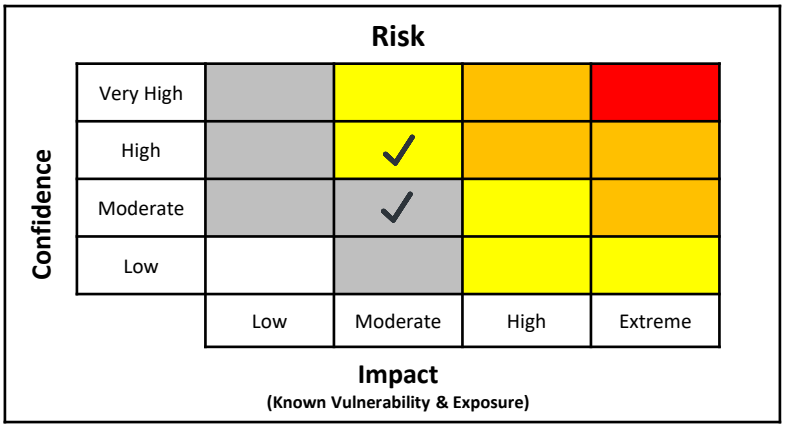
Environment and Climate Change Canada | Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

# Winter returns across southern Alberta with heavy snow

Event Duration: Wednesday Night April 15 to Friday morning April 17, 2026




## Impacts

- Reduced visibility in heavy falling and/or local blowing snow will create winter driving conditions
- Surfaces such as highways, roads, walkways, and parking lots may become difficult to navigate due to accumulating snow in southern Alberta
- Power disruptions are possible due to heavy accumulating snowfall.

## Certainty

- **Snowfall:**
  - **Moderate to high** confidence in total snowfall amounts
    - 15 – 25 cm likely from the foothills west of Calgary extending east/northeast to the SK border
    - 10 – 20 cm expected over southern Foothills (south of Okotoks to the US border)
  - **Moderate** confidence in where the heaviest snowfall will occur
    - Higher confidence for southern Foothills, higher terrain
    - Lower confidence along the west to east band, including Calgary
- **Blowing Snow: Low** confidence on Thursday with falling snow
    - Lack of initial snowpack east of the terrain, modest forecast winds and sticky wet snow will limit potential.

## Key Points

- A heavy band of snow develops in central Alberta Wednesday evening spreading south and intensifying overnight
  - Precipitation likely begins as rain in the south and southeast (Lethbridge to Medicine Hat) overnight with above freezing temperatures
- Heavy snow persists during the day on Thursday across most southern regions
  - The most significant impact to transportation is likely on Thursday morning during the morning rush-hour, but with snow still falling through the day, travel conditions may continue to be challenging through the afternoon.
- Confidence is low in the exact storm track, especially where the west-to-east band will extend
  - The foothills and higher terrain on the west and the east-central regions are the most likely see higher snowfall amounts; The areas in between have lower confidence, including Calgary
- Temperatures drop below freezing by Thursday morning producing icy surfaces as snow will melt initially and snow and slush should refreeze.
- Snow ends from west to east beginning Thursday evening, ending along the SK border overnight.

## Next Update

- Updates to this notification are not expected. Please see the Significant Weather Outlook at: https://hpfx.collab.science.gc.ca/~rum001/eccc/swo/ for updated information. Alerts will likely be issued Wednesday.

## Long Range Forecast – For Alberta

Subsequent weather notifications will be issued as needed

| Friday<br>April 17 | Saturday<br>April 18 | Sunday<br>April 19 |
|---|---|---|
| No significant weather forecast | | |

# Additional Information

- Please monitor current weather forecasts and alerts:
  https://weather.gc.ca/

- Please consult the following websites for further information:
  http://511.alberta.ca
  Alberta Emergency preparedness - https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx
  Alberta Hazard preparedness - https://www.alberta.ca/hazard-preparedness.aspx
  Significant Weather Outlook - https://hpfx.collab.science.gc.ca/~rum001/eccc/swo/

## Impact Categories

The expected impact of weather events is described using the following categories:

| Impact | General Description |
|---|---|
| Low | Day to day activities not affected<br>"Business as usual" for the public<br>Minor, highly localized impacts possible |
| Moderate | Limited disruption to daily life anticipated<br>Some damage/impacts<br>Relatively quick recovery |
| High | Disruption to society expected<br>Significant damage/impacts<br>A few days for recovery (1-3 days) |
| Extreme | Major, prolonged disruption to society<br>Widespread, extensive damage/impacts<br>Long duration recovery (4+ days) |

## Confidence Categories

The confidence in the occurrence of expected weather events and generalized impacts are described by the following categories:

| Confidence | General Description |
|---|---|
| Low | ≤ 40%*<br>Unlikely |
| Moderate | 40-60%*<br>Possible |
| High | 60-80%*<br>Probable |
| Very High | 80-100%*<br>Highly Likely |

*Note that these percentages do not represent model likelihood or probability values. They represent confidence based on a number of sources including model output, trends, historical model performance, antecedent conditions, vulnerability, exposure, etc.