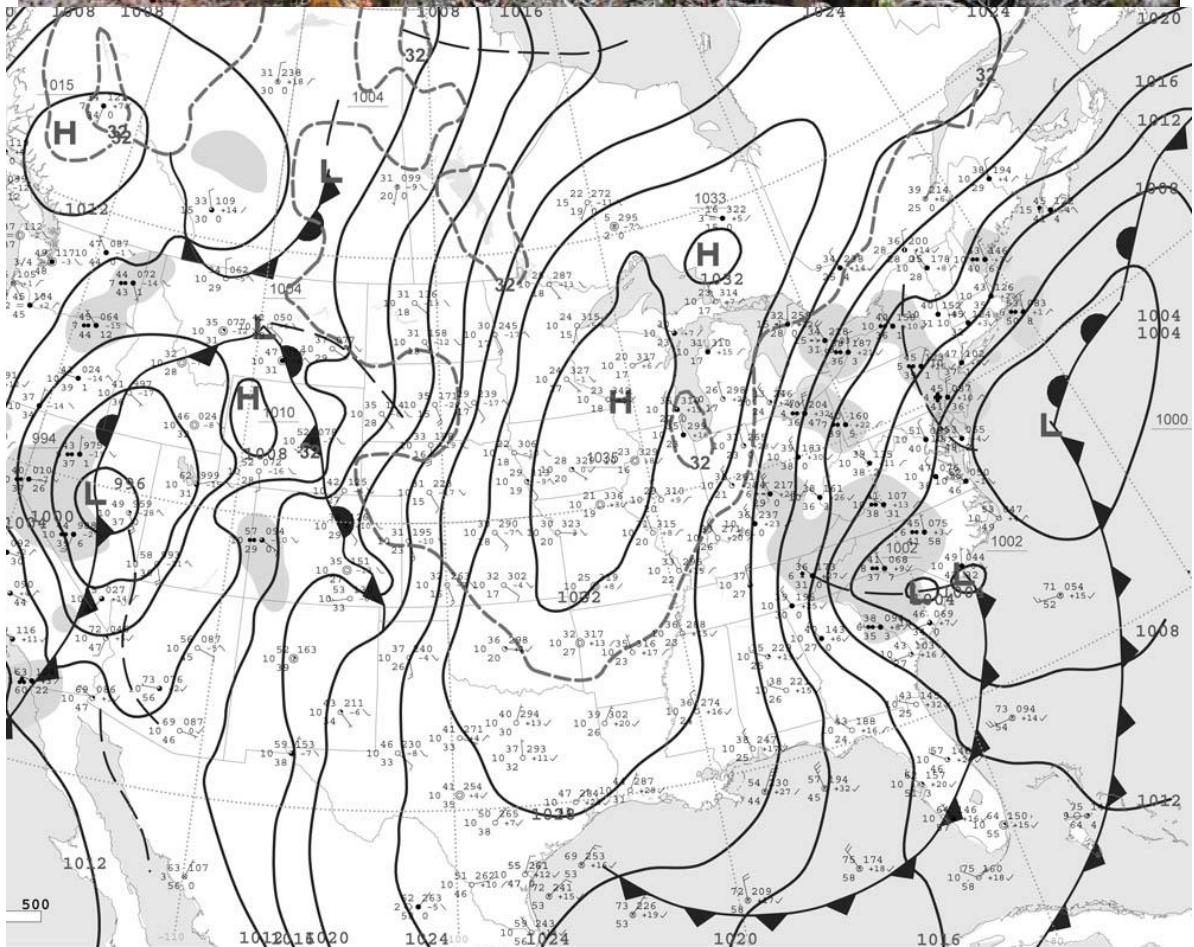


# Winter storm turns mountains white; 22 inches of snow on Mount LeConte

News Sentinel staff  
7:23 AM, Nov 1, 2014  
4:25 PM, Nov 1, 2014



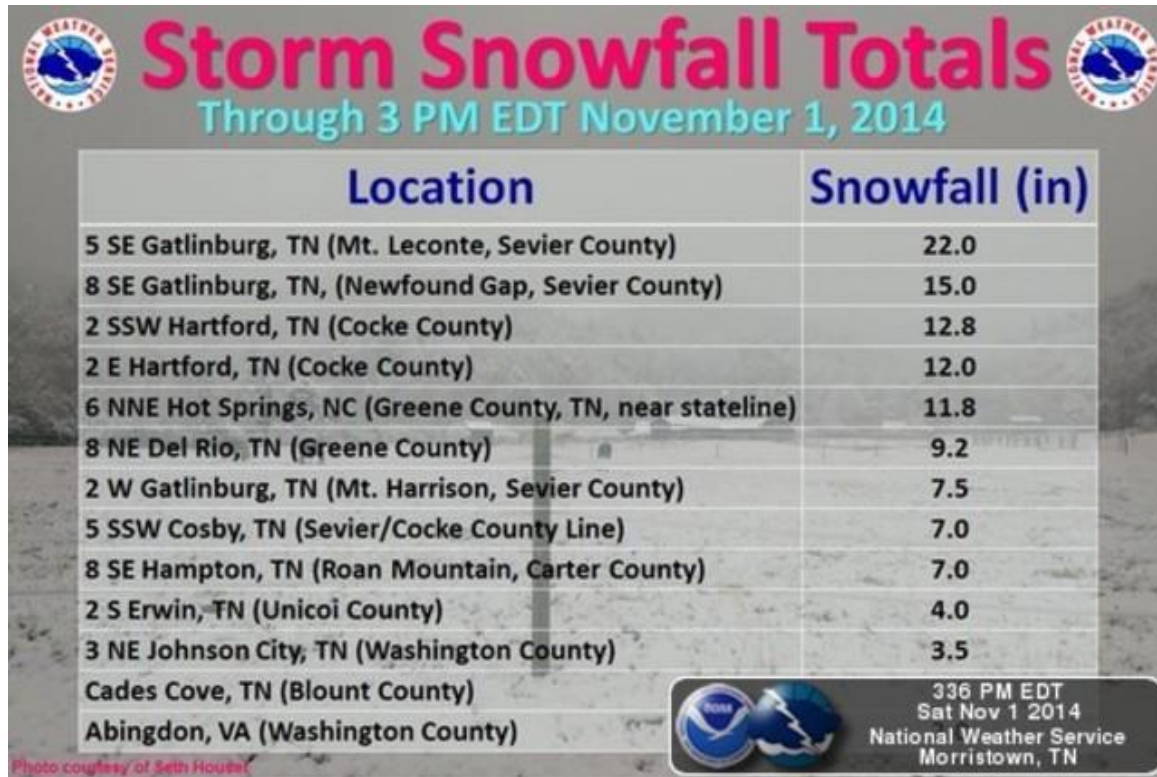


Interstate 40 has reopened along the Tennessee-North Carolina state line after being closed due to weather conditions earlier today, but 22 inches of snow have been recorded at Mount LeConte, 15 at Newfound Gap and 12 in Hartford.

A hiker has been [seriously injured by a falling tree](#) in the Greenbrier area of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park as a winter storm dumped heavy snow in the mountains.

The park service said it would take some time to evacuate the "seriously injured" hiker due to weather conditions.

All campers in tents in Cades Cove are being moved out and there are people blocked in the Tremont and Greenbrier areas, the [Park Service said](#). As soon as Elkmont Road can be cleared of trees, the Elkmont campgrounds will be evacuated as well.



Snow totals for Nov. 1, 2014 (National Weather Service graphic)

The [High on LeConte blog](#) reported around mid-morning that snow was still falling and high winds were creating "deep drifts around the lodge grounds." There are also reports of downed trees.

"Park road crews are stretched quite thin now as there is also snow at the bottom of the mountain, which has taken down lots of trees because they still were holding on to their leaves," the blog stated. "At this point, we are unsure about whether the road to the Rainbow Falls/Bullhead parking lot will be cleared today."

Elsewhere, at least 10 inches of snow has fallen in Newfound Gap, snow and ice forced officials to close the Gatlinburg bypass, U.S. Highway 441 is closed and the road to Clingmans Dome remains shutdown. You can find the latest park road closures at the bottom of this article.

Meanwhile, police in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg are reporting slick roads and several downed trees but no serious issues. There are also scattered power outages in the area.



The view from a National Park Service webcam on Purchase Knob around 10 a.m. Saturday, November 1, 2014.

Despite the mess in the higher elevations, the Knoxville metro area is likely to see few problems from the early season winter storm hitting the region. While some areas in the Knoxville metro area could see up to 2 inches of snow on the roads, little of it is expected to stick on roadways because the ground is still warm.

In the outlying areas above 2,500 feet, it's going to be a day to stay indoors and enjoy hot chocolate. Snowfall accumulations between 6 to 12 inches are expected for most locations above 2,500 feet, the National Weather Service said in an early Saturday morning statement.

Locally higher amounts of up to 18 inches or more will be possible across the highest peaks above 5,000 feet, the Weather Service said.

**Winter Storm Warning!**  
Life-threatening winter storm conditions expected along the East TN & SW VA Mtns!!!  
When: thru 8 PM This Evening.

**Event:**

- Snowfall accumulations between 4 to 8 inches are expected for locations **ABOVE 2500 FEET** (includes I-40 in NC, I-26 in Unicoi Co.)
- Locally higher amounts up to 12-15 inches will be possible across the highest peaks **ABOVE 5000 FEET** (includes US Hwy 441 in GSMNP).

**Impacts:**

- Hazardous and life threatening travel conditions are expected on roads from significant snowfall accumulation **IN THE WINTER STORM WARNING AREA!**
- Downed trees and power outages will be possible **IN THE WINTER STORM WARNING AREA** due to snow accumulating on the foliage left on trees!
- Travel, hiking, camping and any other outdoor activity **IS HIGHLY DISCOURAGED!!!**



6:17 AM EDT  
Sat Nov 1 2014  
National Weather Service  
Morristown, TN

A low pressure system aloft will drop southeastward through the Southern Appalachian region today. Much colder air will move into the region with this system. Brisk northwest winds and very cold temperatures aloft will enhance snow accumulations above 2,500, particularly on northwest facing slopes, the Weather Service said.

Travel is expected to become hazardous on roads across the higher terrain of Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee, including I-40, I-26 and US 441. Downed trees will be possible due to the snow accumulating on foliage still left on many trees. Travel is discouraged.