

NWS Briefing for Winter Weather

Wednesday, January 7

Prepared by: Anthony Brown



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
EL PASO, TX

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Situation Overview:

Bottom Line Up Front:

A pair of upper-level systems will bring us two rounds of lowland rain and mountain snow.

- Snow:
 - **2-6" Sacramento Mountains, 1-3" (6000-7500') 3-6"+ (above 7500') Gila**
 - Round 1: this afternoon - winding down between midnight and 3AM Thursday
 - Round 2: ~5PM Thursday - Midnight Friday ****Brief but Heavy Snow Squalls****
 - Isolated showers between Round 1 and 2
- Wind:
 - Blustery west winds, gusts 35-50 MPH, highest across mountains and east slope areas
 - Blowing snow and white out conditions in portions of the mountains
- Temperature:
 - **Single-digit Wind Chill Values in the Sacramento Mountains Thursday Night into the weekend**
 - **Teens and Twenties for Wind Chill Values in the Lowlands**
- Impacts: Slick and icy roads over high terrain with poor visibility. Strong crosswinds along N/S highways.

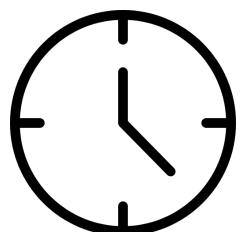


Winter Weather Advisory

Latest info at weather.gov/epz



Tonight through Friday Morning



5 PM Tonight to 8 AM Friday



**Sacramento Mountains in Otero County
Gila/Black Range in Grant County**



- 3 to 6" for elevations 7,000'+
- 1 to 3" for elevations 5,000-7,000'

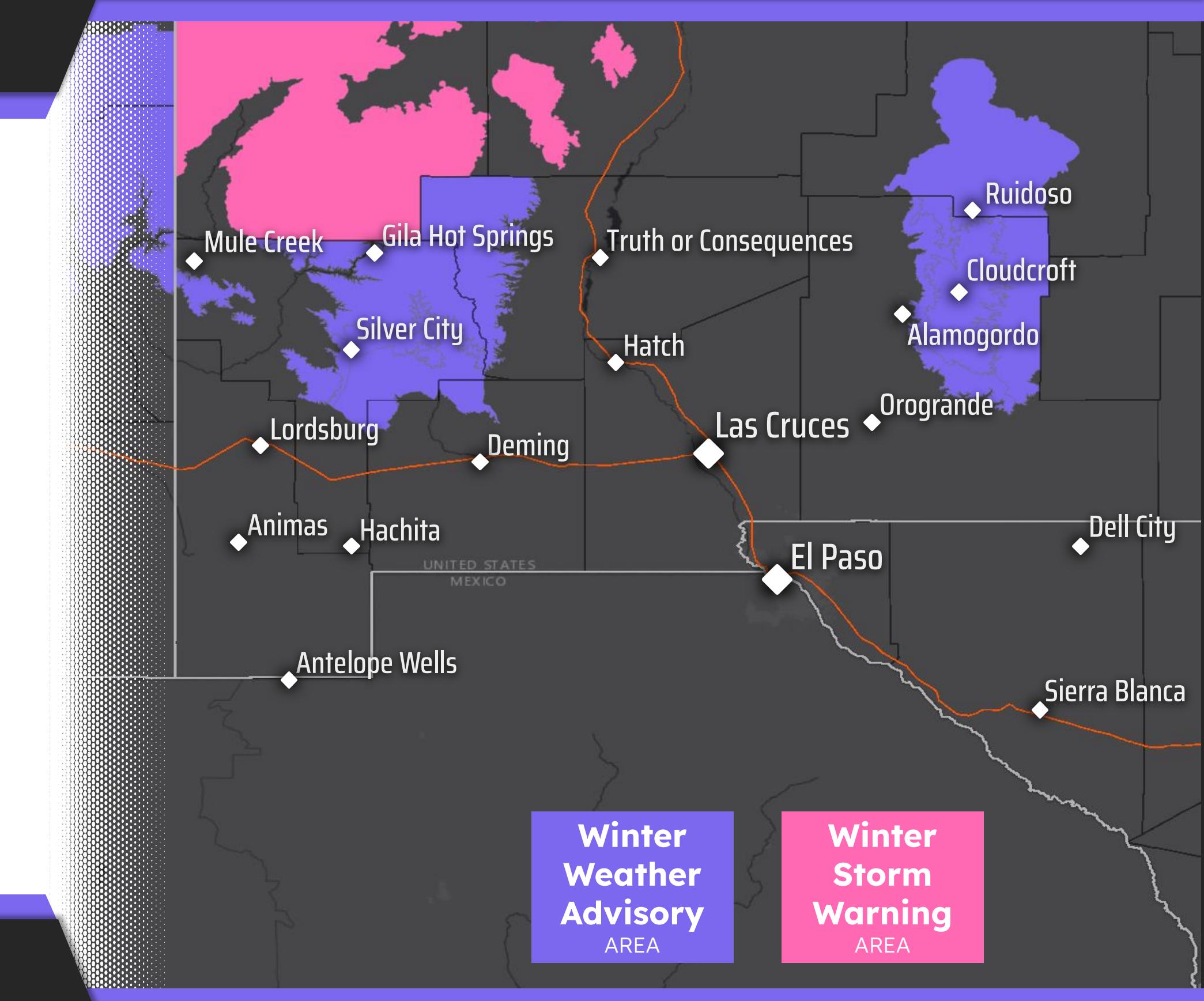


- Plan on slippery road conditions
- Monitor latest forecast and warnings



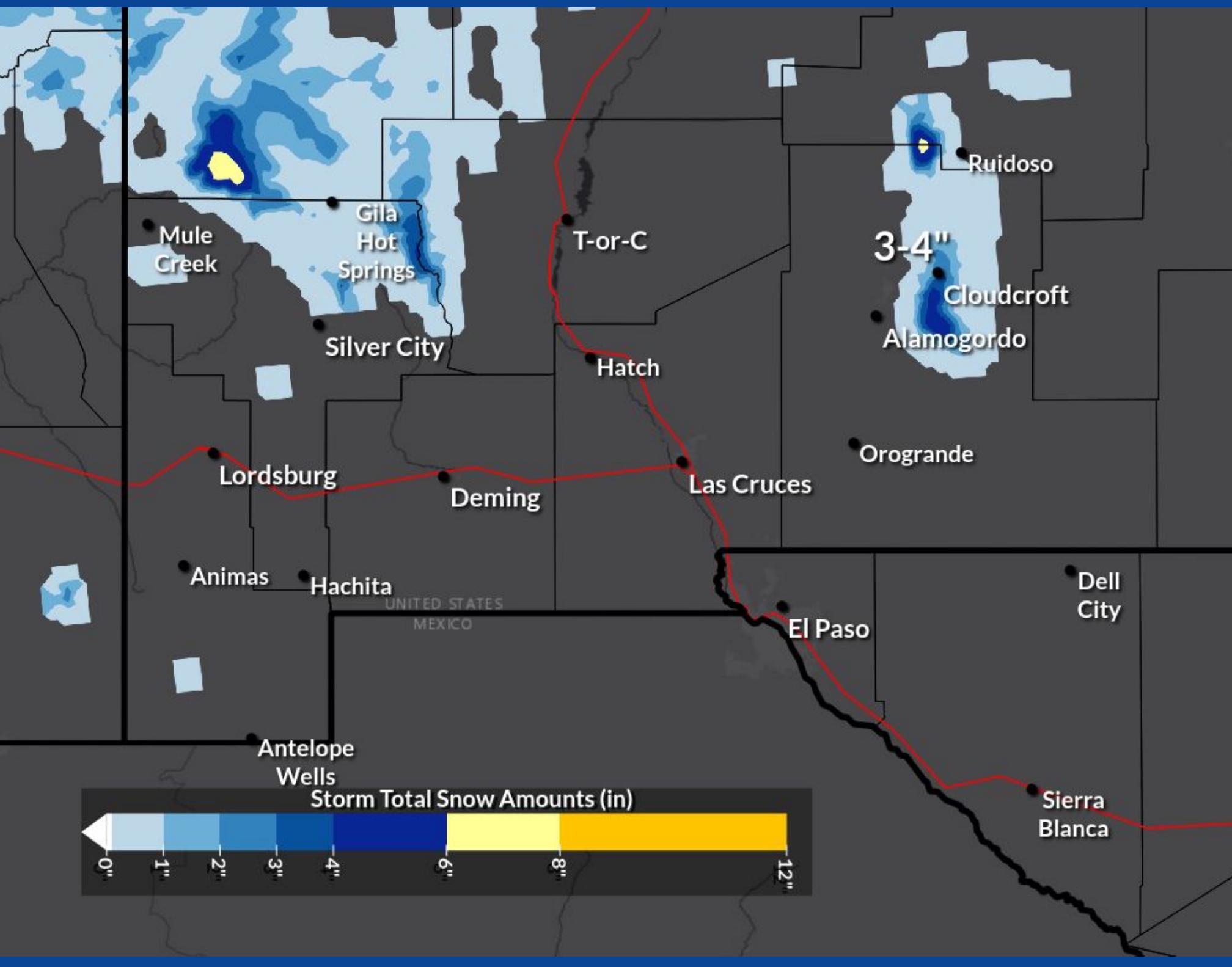
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Updated: January 7, 2026

Round 1 Snowfall Forecast - January 7-8



→ Mountain Snow Beginning Tonight

A Pacific low moves across New Mexico tonight with most precipitation over by morning.

Forecast Snow Totals:

- Cloudcroft: 2-4"
- Emory Pass: 2-4"
- Mescalero: Around 1"
- Pinos Altos, Lake Roberts: Less than 1"
- Timberon, Mayhill: Around 1"
- Silver City: Little to None

→ Actions and Preparedness

- Monitor and weather.gov for latest forecasts.
- Slick travel for portions of US-70, US-82, NM-15, and NM-152. Plan ahead and use caution when traveling over mountain passes.

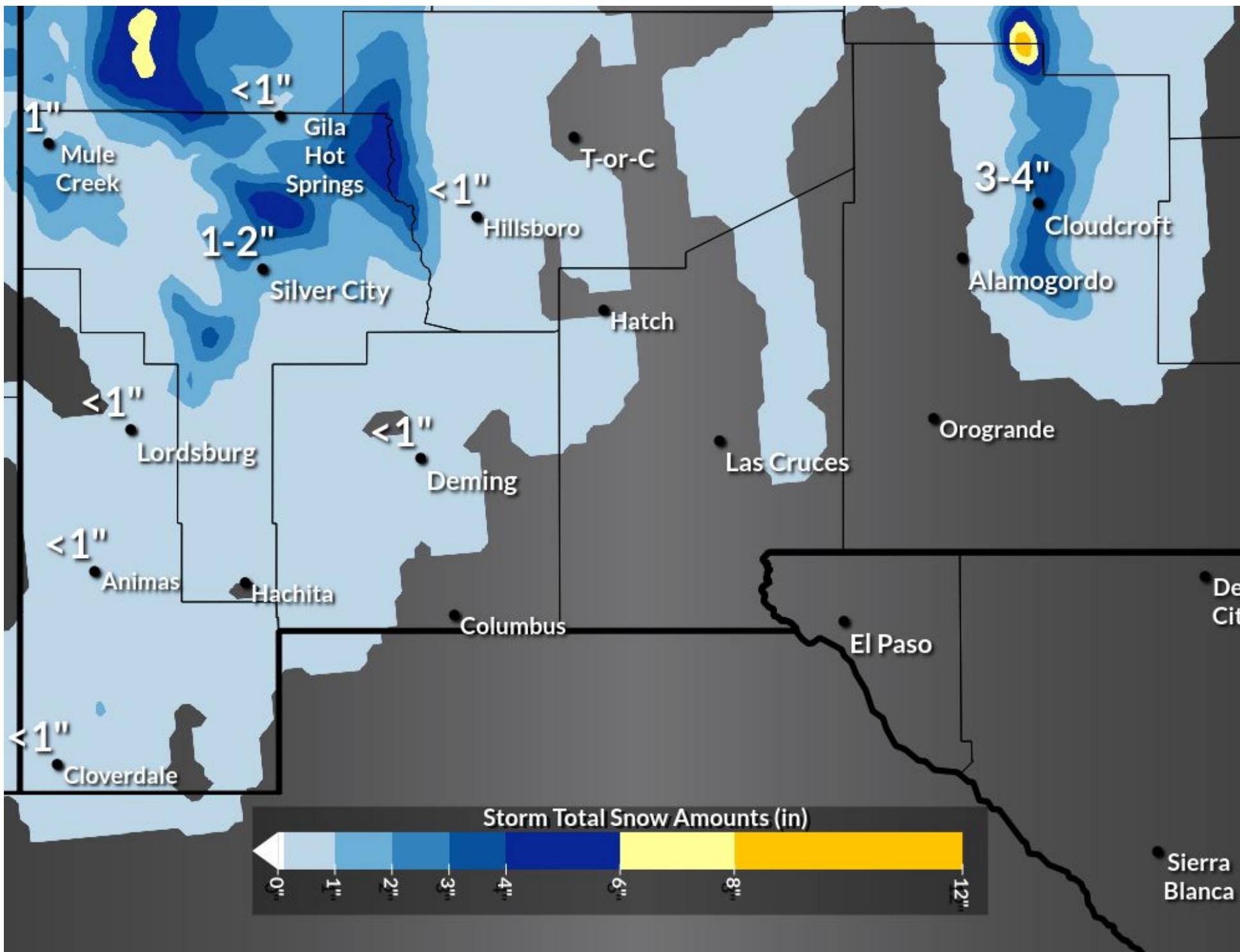


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Round 2 Snowfall Forecast - January 8-9



→ Mountain Snow Thursday Evening

A system will bring a **quick burst of moderate to heavy snow** Thursday evening into the overnight hours.

Forecast Snow Totals:

- ◆ Cloudcroft: 2-4"
- ◆ Emory Pass: 3-4"
- ◆ Mescalero: 1-3"
- ◆ Pinos Altos, Lake Roberts: 1-3"
- ◆ Timberon, Mayhill: 1-2"
- ◆ Silver City: 1-2" (Low Confidence)
- ◆ Lowlands: Rain may mix with snow (west)
- ◆ Confidence: Moderate (except Silver City)

→ Actions and Preparedness

- Monitor weather.gov for latest forecasts.
- Slick travel for portions of US-70, US-82, NM-15, and NM-152 with poor visibility. Plan ahead and use caution when traveling over mountain passes.

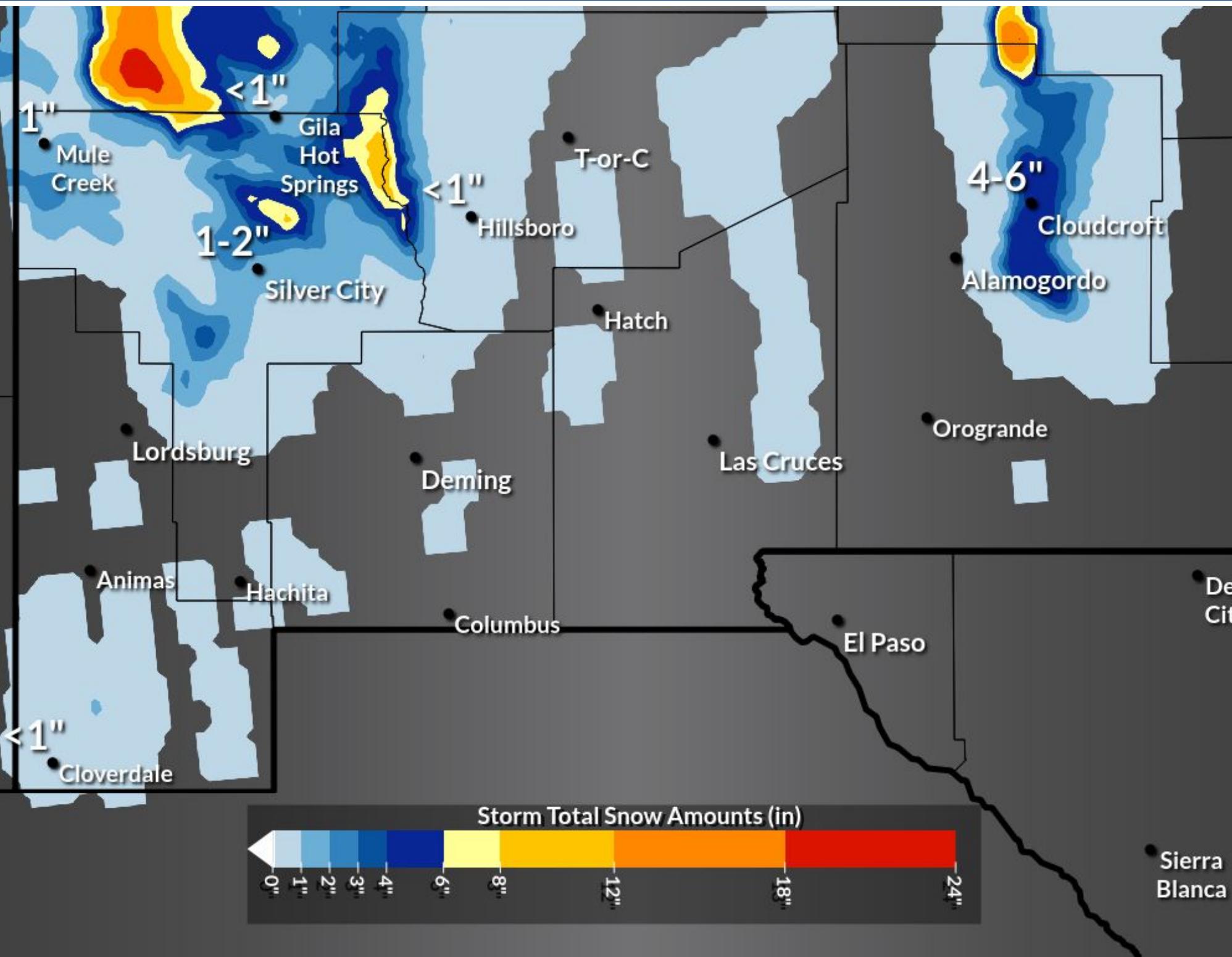


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Snowfall Forecast - January 7-9



Forecast Snow Totals Both Events:

- ◆ Cludcroft: 4-6"
- ◆ Emory Pass: 3-6"
- ◆ Mescalero: 1-3"
- ◆ Pinos Altos, Lake Roberts: 1-3"
- ◆ Timberon, Mayhill: 1-2"
- ◆ Silver City: 1-2" (Low Confidence)
- ◆ Lowlands: Little to No Accumulation
- ◆ Confidence: Moderate (except Silver City)

→ Actions and Preparedness

- Monitor local news and weather.gov for latest forecasts
- Slick travel for portions of US-70, US-82, NM-15, and NM-152. Plan ahead and use caution when traveling over mountain passes.



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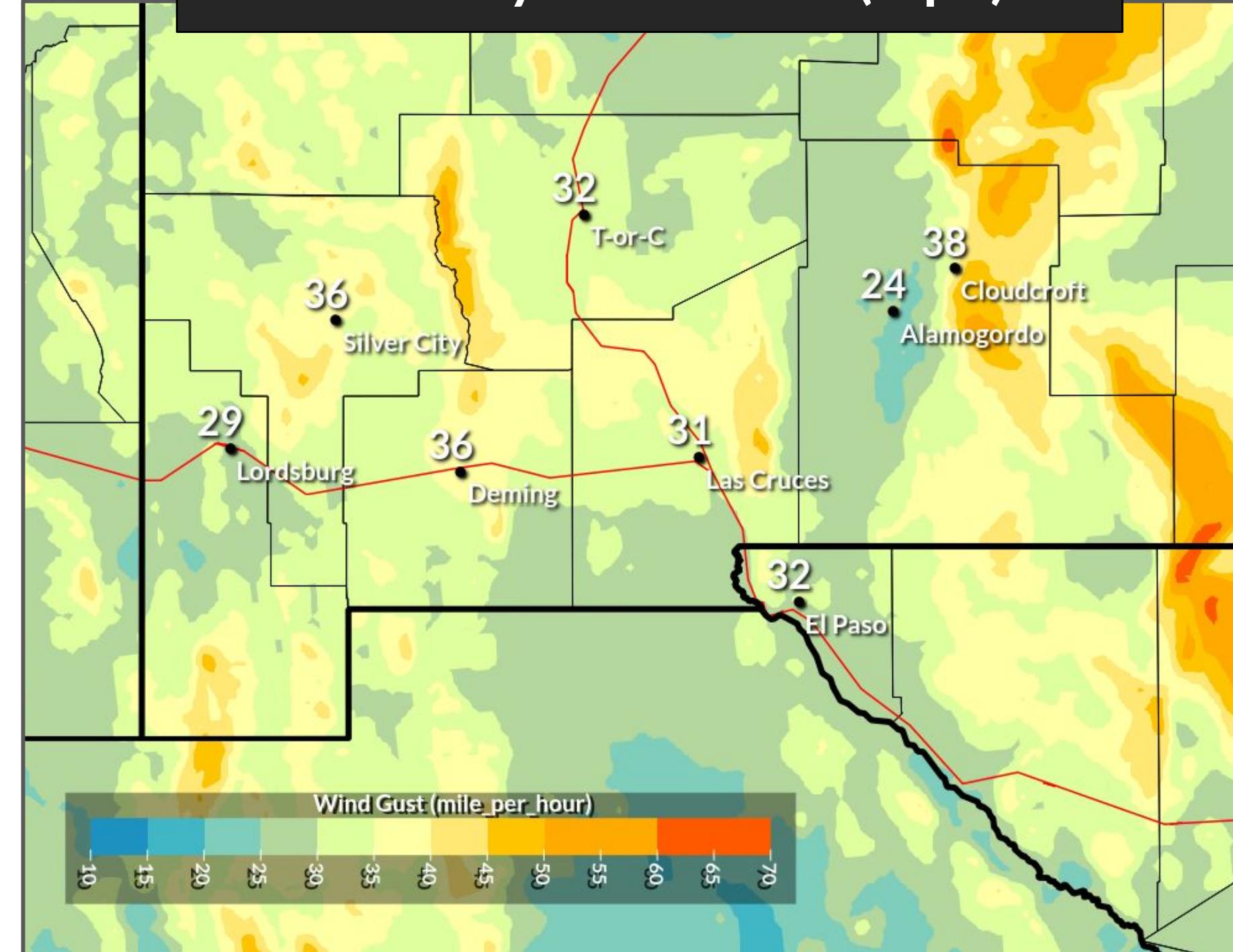


Blustery Winds Ahead

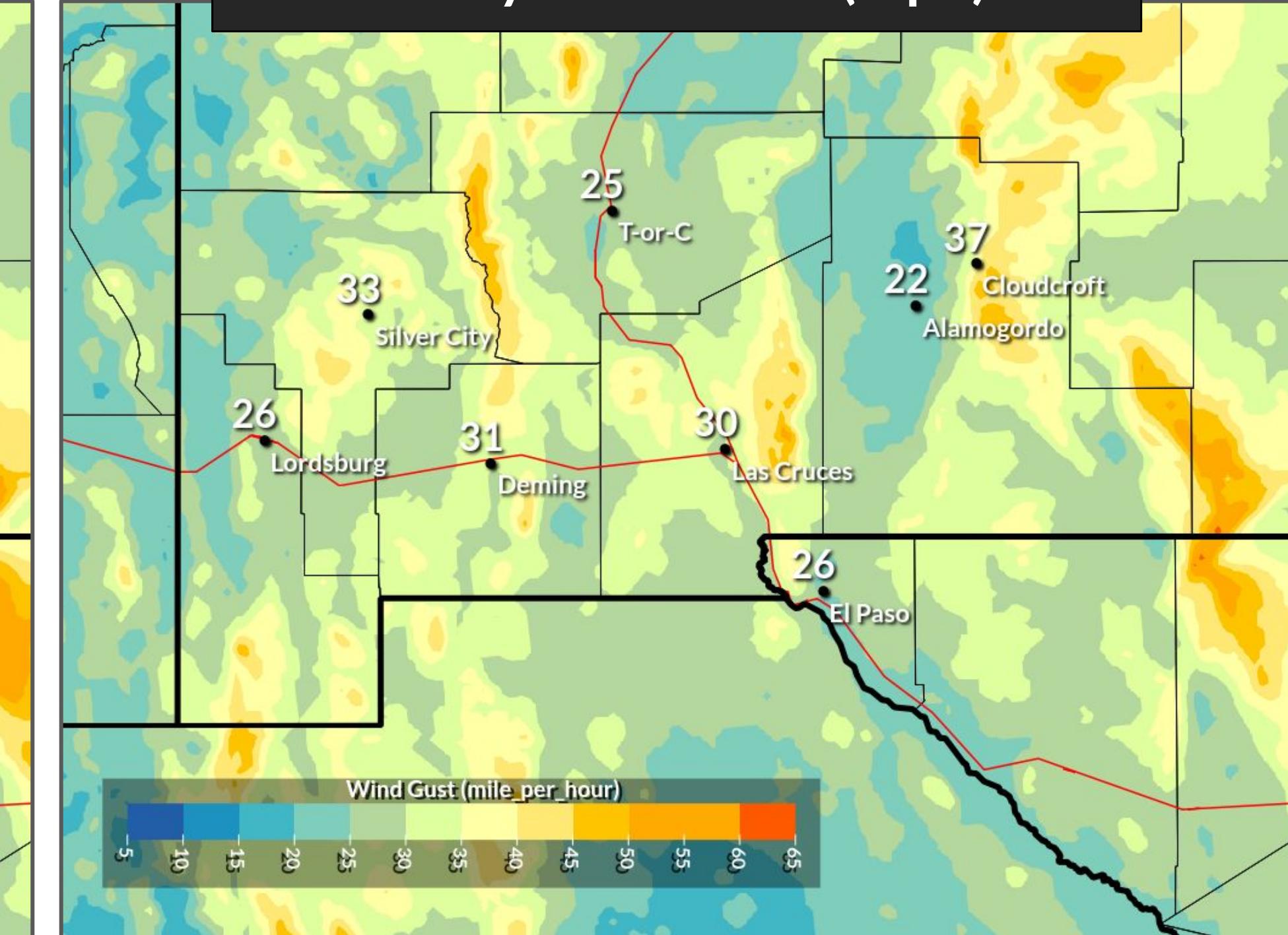
El Paso Metro

Issued January 7, 2026 6:00 AM

Thursday Peak Gusts (mph)

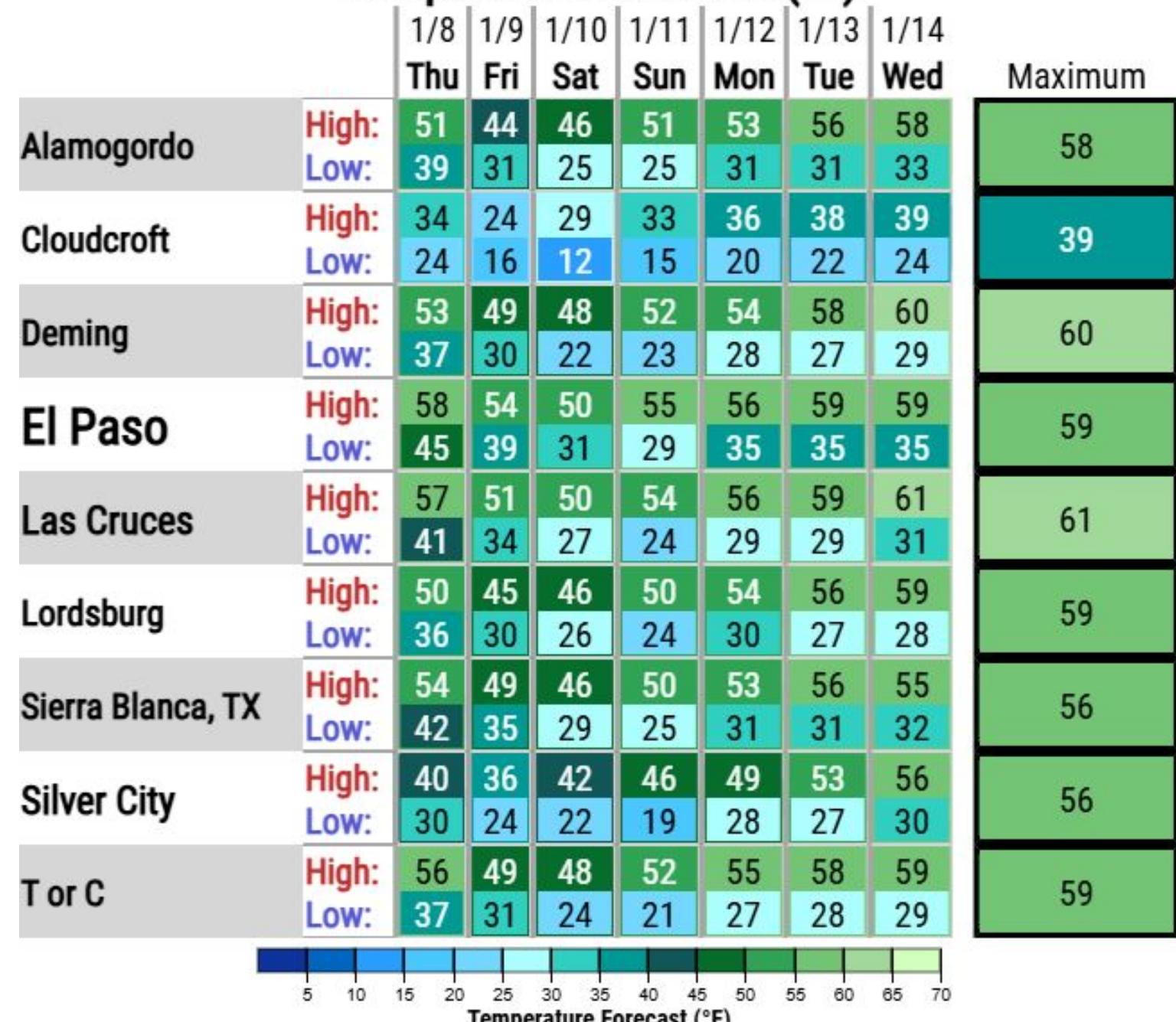


Friday Peak Gusts (mph)

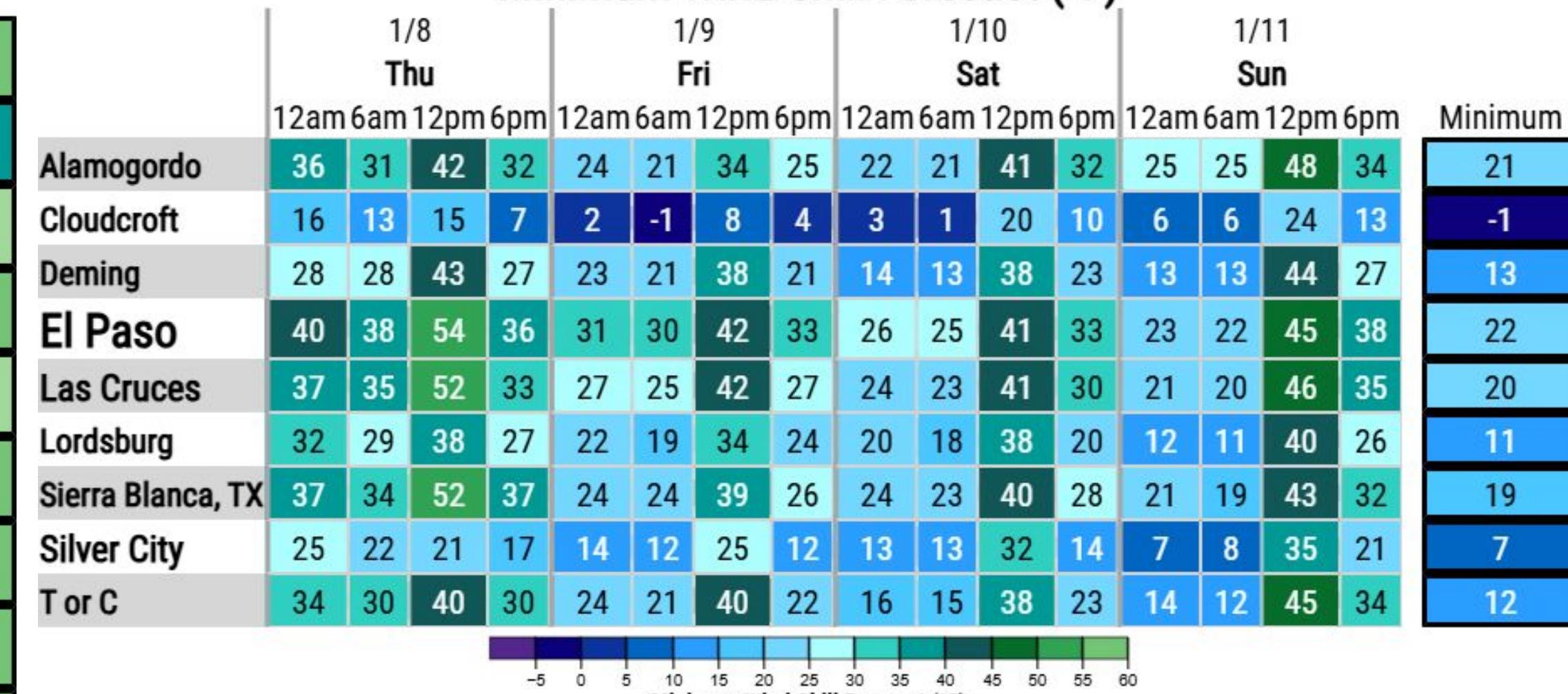


Temperatures and Wind Chills

Temperature Forecast (°F)



Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)



Created: 12 pm MST Wed 1/7/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Created: 12 pm MST Wed 1/7/2026 | Values are accumulations over the period beginning at the time shown.



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Blizzard Warning

Severe winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring -- including whiteout conditions.

Do not travel.

take action.

Winter Storm Warning

Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring. **Considerable travel problems** are expected.

take action.

Winter Weather Advisory

Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring. **Travel difficulties** are expected.

be aware.



Cold Impacts: Vulnerable Populations

NEWBORNS

ELDERLY

CHRONIC ILLNESS

OUTDOOR WORKERS

UNHOUSED

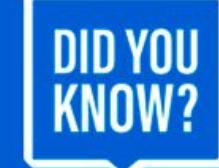
Everyone is at risk from the dangers of extreme cold, but these groups are more vulnerable than most. Age and certain conditions make the body less able to regulate temperature.

- Dress in loose layers and cover all exposed skin
- Consume hot foods and warm drinks, but avoid caffeine and alcohol
- Check on family, friends and neighbors
- Limit or avoid time outdoors

weather.gov

ICE & SNOW, TAKE IT SLOW

Each year in the U.S., there are over
1,000 deaths and **100,000 injuries** due to
vehicle crashes during winter weather.



Clean off your vehicle before driving.

Flying snow from cars causes accidents.



Keep it slow, and don't use cruise control.

Roads can be slick even if they just look wet.



Leave extra distance between vehicles.

Stay especially far from snow plows.



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NWS El Paso Contact Information

January 7, 2026
1:02 PM

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