Fri. Northern Illinois Forecast: Heavy Accumulating Snow Tonight into Tomorrow with Gusty Winds | March 23, 2018

Forecast Video Link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7eidRCipAY&feature=youtu.be&hd=1

Dry conditions are in place across the forecast area this morning. Some clear skies are in place across northern portions of the state, but clouds are increasing to the south. Through the morning hours and into midday, clouds will increase across northern Illinois as well.

By midday, rain showers will be working into western Illinois closer to Quincy/Macomb/Jacksonville. This will continue to slowly work its way to the northeast this evening across central and western Illinois.

Highs this afternoon will be in the lower 40’s to lower 50’s in most locations. Winds will be from the east to northeast at 5-10 mph, gusting to 15 mph.
Rain will continue to spread northeast across the forecast area this evening. Rain is forecast to start to mix with/change over to snow closer to 11 pm to midnight around the Davenport to Peoria areas.

Through the overnight, rain will continue to change over to heavy wet snow from roughly Davenport to Champaign. However, as the warm air pushes into the forecast area late tonight into Saturday morning, the rain/snow line will likely lift north a bit.
Lows tonight will be in the lower 30’s. Winds will be from the northeast at 8-16 mph, gusting to 20 mph.

Through the morning and into midday on Saturday, precipitation is forecast to remain all snow from the Davenport to Watseka area. Just south of there, a wintry mix of precipitation will be likely.

Into the afternoon hours, the mix may change over to snowfall as colder air works in. Periods of moderate to heavy snowfall will remain possible through the afternoon and into the early evening.

Highs on Saturday will be in the lower 30’s to near 40°. Winds will be from the east at 15-20 mph, gusting to around 30 mph.
Snow will start to taper off from north to south closer to 5-6 pm Saturday evening. By 12-2 AM Sunday morning, most of the snowfall will be over with only a few flurries and light snow showers remaining in central portions of the state.
New snowfall totals of 5-8” will be possible from northwestern Illinois and to the southeast into the Kankakee to Watseka areas. North and south of that, snowfall totals will quickly drop off. On the southern edge, a rain/sleet mixture will be possible with perhaps some light freezing rain from time to time.
A second forecast update was sent Friday evening for this system, in which an 8-12” band was added reaching into portions of the forecast area. That snowfall map is below.

Additional forecast updates were sent Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon while the snow was falling.

Observed snowfall from the event is shown below: