



## NOAA or Farmer's Almanac?

### NOAA:

El Nino will have a visible influence on U.S. weather patterns into early 2003, including the nation's Midwest region. States in the High Plains and central U.S. region are expected to experience a warmer-than-normal winter, and in some areas conditions will be drier than normal. However, the region should still anticipate typical winter cold spells and damaging storms.

### FARMERS ALMANAC:

November through March will be a bit milder and drier than normal, with much less snow than normal. Most of the region will get less than half its normal snowfall, with the best chance for significant accumulation in early December, mid-January, and mid-February. February will be the coldest month, with the season's coldest temperature in the first half of the month. Other cold spells will occur in early December and from late December into early January.



### NOAA and Farmer's Almanac agree.

This winter will be warmer and drier, but also expect cold and snow and damaging storms. Anyone who has spent time in the Chicago area knows that the winter season means to expect anything and everything. Therefore it makes sense to review some of the winter hazards and what you can do to prevent injuries and incidents.

**Walk carefully** - Instead of walking heel to toe, take short flat steps to help sustain your balance. Use handrails wherever available. Wear boots with treads; add strap-on cleats if you spend a lot of time walking on ice. Leave high-heeled shoes at home. To the extent possible, stay on cleared walkways to ensure safe passage from parking lots to your work. However, be aware that paved parking lots and walkways may still be covered with a layer of ice. Occasionally, areas that had previously been melted by salt can refreeze as temperatures drop. If you see a problem like this in a parking lot, walkway or road, please call Roads and Grounds at x3303 or your building manager.

**Help keep pathways clear** - Fermilab's Roads & Grounds Department is responsible for snow removal. Building managers are consulted on an annual basis to develop priorities for pathway clearance. However, **road plowing is their top priority**. If walkways and doorways in your area need clearing, please help out. In some cases salt and/or shovels have been made available for your use. *[WARNING! Avoid shoveling if you cannot do so safely.]* Contact your building manager if you would like additional ice/snow removal equipment.

**Be Prepared for Road Closures** – The highly traveled roads at Fermilab (e.g., Batavia Rd, Pine Rd, etc.) will be the first to be plowed. That could mean that when there is a heavy snowfall, Roads and Grounds will close some of the secondary roads on site, while they concentrate the primary roads.

**Drive Carefully** - Make sure your car windows are thoroughly cleared. Visibility may be limited. Slow down and watch for other vehicles, especially snow plows. Even though removal vehicles have flashing lights, it may be difficult to see the snow plow, and for the driver to see you. If you skid, *do not brake*. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator and turn gently into the skid. Put blankets, some candy, and water in your car in case you get stranded. If you are stranded, avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by keeping a window opened a bit.

**Dress for the Weather** - The wind chill is a measure of the combined effect of cold and wind on exposed flesh. The lower the wind chill, the less time it takes to cause frostbite or hypothermia.

**Recommended Winter Attire:**

- ✓ Wear loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers (the trapped air between the layers insulates). Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill.
- ✓ Wear outer garments that are tightly woven, water repellent and hooded.
- ✓ Wear a hat (half of the body heat is lost through the top of the head).
- ✓ Wear mitten that are snug at the wrist. Mitten offer better protection from the cold than gloves. Gloves allow your fingers to cool much faster than mittens do.
- ✓ Cover the mouth and nose with scarves to help protect lungs from cold air.
- ✓ Attempt to keep your feet as dry as possible.

**Other things you can do to help the Lab** – Budget reductions have affected the Lab universally, and snow removal efforts are no exception. During overnight absences please park in long-term lots provided in the Village. Most lots also have assigned spaces for Government vehicles. Please make every effort to park these vehicles there to help reduce the snow removal effort in the primary lots.



**WEATHER-RELATED INFORMATION**

Up-to-date winter weather-related information is available at <http://www.icepack.org/>. If the weather is severe enough that there is some question about whether or not the Lab is open, a notice will be posted in red on the Fermilab at work page: <http://www.fnal.gov/faw/>. Closing information can also be obtained from the following broadcast stations or via the Fermilab severe weather hotline at 1-630-840-5995.

**WGN 720 AM CBS-TV CH2 FOX-TV CH32**  
**WBBM 780 AM WGN-TV CH9 CLTV**



**Fermilab**  
**Severe Weather Hotline**  
**840-5995**