

## Northeast Endures Bomb Cyclone

By Jay Lucey, Executive Director  
Coalition of Northeastern Governors



NOAA GOES

I'll be honest, when I heard the term "bomb cyclone" used to describe the latest extreme weather event to hit the East Coast, I was intimidated. It appears that was the intention.

The term "bomb" was first published in 1980 report by the Department of Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The authors of the report were studying cyclones over the North Atlantic, trying to understand the increase in frequency, and ferocity, of the events. It was logical given their explosive nature that they landed on the descriptor "bomb."

The authors defined bomb as "a series of pressure falls that occur in a rapidly developing cyclone; and the central pressure of the storm has to drop at the rate of one millibar per hour for at least 24 hours." The images project its disruptive nature: Dumpsters floating through the streets of Boston; the Potomac River frozen over; Florida's orange groves encased in ice.



Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images

Like many of the extreme weather events before it, the bomb cyclone exposed vulnerabilities of our coastlines. Firstly, the recognition of climate change's impact predicates preparation and stabilization efforts for the next weather event. These bomb cyclones have occurred for decades, out in the open ocean; but it's only in recent

years that they have been churned closer and made landfall. Any adaptive efforts at making coastal infrastructure and environment more resilient should be based on the increased frequency, and explosiveness, of climate change events like the bomb cyclone.



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