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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 5, 2010

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## EARTH Magazine: Ranking Snowstorms

Alexandria, VA – Today's winter storm expected to impact the Mid-Atlantic is being described as "historic." But really, how do we know? Is just the total amount of snow important, or is it how it affects people? EARTH Magazine Online takes a special look at NOAA's efforts to categorize snowstorms - similar to the rankings of other natural disasters - and to measure their effects on society.

Earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes all have a ranking system in terms of their severity. But snowstorms have always just been ranked in terms of inches that have fallen. Now a team of NOAA researchers is trying to change that. Read EARTH Magazine Online's featured story at <http://www.earthmagazine.org/> to learn about the three criteria scientists are using to rank snowstorms. What implications will this ranking system have in terms of predicting a major snow event and how local governments and communities react to such storms? Learn about this and more in EARTH Magazine Online.

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