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Could this be the beginning of another bad winter?

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By Steve Annear

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SOMERVILLE — Is this it?

Is this the beginning of another winter from hell?

That's the thought that had to be running through Bay State residents' minds Tuesday morning as they awoke to the season's first snow.

“I hope not,” said Amar Majmundar, as he walked along an unshoveled sidewalk. “I don’t need to deal with 20 inches of snow.”

But he was prepared for Tuesday’s snowfall.



Photos: Season’s first snowfall

Commuters made their way across puddles of snow and rain following the first snowfall of the season.

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“We have our boots and everything,” he said.

Jen Garvey was throwing down salt on the sidewalk outside her Putnam Avenue home.

“I’m not worried about the next couple of weeks, but I think more towards February like we did last year,” she

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said.

It was the first time since last winter's fury that Garvey had pulled out the bucket full of salt to tend to the snow outside.

But as a New Englander, she said, she was used to the sudden and dramatic shift in the weather.

"It's one of the parts of living here," she said. "You're used to one day wearing shorts and having a nice cold beer, and then having a shovel and rock salt the next day. Always stay prepared."

Nassira Nicola, a Los Angeles transplant who has lived in the area for several years, said she had put on a coat for the first time this season last week.

She preferred the warmer weather New England experienced at Christmastime, but said she is ready for whatever comes this winter.

Standing with an umbrella over her head, blocking the sprinkles of snow falling from the grey sky, Nicola said she didn't think this season, however, would be as bad as the last.

"I know it didn't snow until late last year, but even so, the snow isn't going to stick today. It's going to turn into slush," she said.

"I feel like we probably had our snow crisis last year. But we will see how it goes."

On Highland Avenue, Jose Carvalho, 65, kept his head down and his hood up as he scooped snow from the sidewalk outside of an apartment building, and tossed the slushy mess aside.

"I was just thinking I wasn't going to have to shovel snow this year," he joked. "But I actually like it. I like to exercise. It's good for me."

Like others, though, he had high hopes that this is the worst that Mother Nature will bring.

That wish, or at least something along those lines, could come true as long-range forecasters have said they expect the mild weather we have experienced of late to generally continue through at least

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part of January.

That doesn't mean there can't be snow during that stretch, and experts say there's a chance that we could see a return to colder, more seasonably normal temperatures — and more average snowfall — later in winter.

But meteorologists have said they highly doubt our region will see snowfall totals anywhere near last year's tallies. After all, Boston had a recordbreaking 110.6 inches, including 64.8 during February.

Some forecasters have said they expect the total snowfall this winter will end up roughly around the seasonal average, which is 43 inches for Boston.

Matt Rocheleau of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Steve Annear can be reached at steve.annear@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@steveannear](https://twitter.com/steveannear).

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