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Bills practice cancellation weather

The Buffalo Bills (10-3) canceled Thursday's practice and elected to hold meetings virtually amid a major snowfall. More than two feet of lake-effect snow fell in Orchard Park, N.Y., according to the National Weather Service, changing the Bills' plans ahead of a highly anticipated matchup — and potential Super Bowl preview — against the Detroit Lions (12-1) on Sunday. The Bills will attempt to return to the field Friday for their final practice of the week, as snow is expected to stop falling in the greater Buffalo area by Thursday evening. An update from One Bills Drive. #GoBills | #BillsMafia pic.twitter.com/NOwXTDU5Co — Buffalo Bills (@BuffaloBills) December 12, 2024 While weather won't have an on-field impact Sunday under the dome at Ford Field in Detroit, it alters a day of preparation for Buffalo ahead of its biggest game of the year. Coach Sean McDermott's team is just a couple of days removed from a 5,000-mile roundtrip trek to southern California following last Sunday's 44-42 road loss to the Los Angeles Rams. Sunday's matchup with the Lions also marks the final leg of a grueling month of games, which included home wins over the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers in late November. The Bills will finish the regular season with divisional matchups against the New England Patriots (Dec. 22 and Jan. 5) and the New York Jets (Dec. 29). How do the Bills adjust? There are two ways to look at this for the Bills in their preparation for the Lions game. The first is that they'll likely go the entire week without a fully padded practice, which is wholly uncommon in the NFL. The team decided to conduct a walkthrough only Wednesday, as has been their leaning late in the year the past few seasons to reduce the toll of injuries when everyone has bumps and bruises. That Wednesday usually gets everyone prepared for the Thursday practice, with a lighter day Friday. If the team goes with business as usual Friday, when the weather is projected to lighten up, the Bills will have a shortened session. Although not a deal breaker, it could inhibit some of the matchup-related parts of their playbook they wanted to get on the same page with. The other way to look at this is that the Bills are well-versed in weather impacting their plans. Even in 2022, when the team had to move their entire operation for a home game to be played in Detroit against the Cleveland Browns, they were able to power through and win. Snow impacting this time of year is a part of life for the Bills and McDermott, so he's likely had a full plan in place in the event their practice went interrupted. The team could always move their Thursday padded practice plans to Friday when they're expected to meet in person, too, and treat their Thursday virtual session as their usual Friday. Either way, the trend of this storm seems a bit more favorable than some of the others they've dealt with over the years. — Joe Buscaglia, Bills beat writer Required reading (Photo: Timothy T Ludwig / Getty Images) Updated [hour]:[minute] [AMPM] [timezone], [monthFull] [day], [year] ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Bills canceled practice Thursday amid more than 2 feet of snow and opted to handle team meetings virtually. The Bills (10-3) posted pictures on X of their home stadium buried in snow, with its blue seats barely visible in most places. Buffalo plays at Detroit (12-1) on Sunday afternoon, one of two games involving division-leading teams. Pittsburgh (10-3) also plays at Philadelphia (11-2). Buffalo beat San Francisco in heavy snow earlier this month. According to the National Weather Service in Buffalo, the nearby vicinity of Orchard Park — where the Bills practice and play — received 30 inches of snow through Thursday morning. There was a travel ban in effect for Erie County and surrounding areas. Snowfall was expected to end later Thursday. The Bills held a walkthrough Wednesday following their cross-country return trip from Los Angeles, meaning they will have just Friday's practice before facing the Lions. — AP NFL: BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills canceled Thursday's practice due to lake effect snow in the region ahead of Sunday's game against the Detroit Lions. The team will instead meet virtually due to unsafe conditions. A travel ban went into effect in parts of Western New York, including Orchard Park — where the team's facility and stadium are located — prohibiting driving on the roads. Blowing snow is a major concern with speed around 23 mph, per the National Weather Service (NWS), and gusts as high as 40 mph. Orchard Park received about 30 inches of snow before noon on Thursday with more falling during the day. The NWS expects an accumulation of seven to 11 more inches Thursday evening. The Bills (10-3) held a walkthrough on Wednesday. Friday — when the snow is expected to end — will be the team's first full practice, although it is typically a shorter practice to end the week. Ahead of facing the Lions in 2022, the Bills had a game against the Cleveland Browns moved to Detroit due to weather conditions and safety concerns in Orchard Park. Despite the lack of practice, the Bills added safety Damar Hamlin (back/ribs) to the injury report, joining safety Taylor Rapp (neck/shoulder) and cornerback Rasul Douglas on the list of injured starting defensive backs ahead of facing the league's No. 1 scoring offense. Plows worked on snow removal in and around Highmark Stadium in preparation for heavy traffic for a Buffalo Bills football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Orchard Park, New York, on Dec. 1, 2024. / Tina MacIntyre-Yee / USA TODAY NETWORK via Imagn Images