

# Fluffy Layer Of Snowflakes Deceiving

Beautiful, feathery snowflakes fall in freezing weather on a still, calm day in the Arctic country where the wind usually blows. It collects to a fluffy thickness of about three inches. The snow is so light that when one steps on it at a normal walking gait, the slight pressure of air under one's foot blows the fluff aside making the footprint a third larger than it normally is.

This fascinating snow layer—beautiful as it may seem—is a potentially dangerous condition. In the treeless, wide expanses of the Arctic country where changes of wind direction are often unpredictable, the innocent-looking down of snow can transform into a roiling, blinding, intensely concentrated, angry snow blizzard excelled by none in the world. It is especially dangerous when a wind gathers into a gale force in a short period of time.

If a traveler in the Arctic country notices this snow condition, no matter how calm and beautiful the day might be, he had better wait and let the wind blow it off, otherwise he might be traveling into one of the Arctic's dangerous traps.