

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, January 7, 2010  
Gainesville - 12:26 p.m.

Contact: Teri Pope  
Office Phone 770-718-3924  
Cell Phone 404-274-6436

## WINTER WEATHER BATTLE PLAN FOR NORTHEAST GEORGIA

- WHEN:** At noon Georgia DOT's Second shift of personnel for winter weather duty went home and will report to their winter weather work stations at 10:00 p.m. tonight. First shift staff are staying at work and will remain here till 10:00 p.m. tonight. Currently, crews are performing routine maintenance activities. No winter weather work is underway yet.
- WHY:** Temperatures are expect to continue to fall the rest of the day so any moisture we get will refreeze overnight creating black ice tomorrow. As ice forms and weighs down trees we could have an epidemic of fallen trees. Trees are damaged from a two year drought and our recent deluge has only weakened root systems more.
- HOW:** As soon as winter precipitation begins DOT will employ our roadway snow strategy to keep the most used roadways open and safe for you to use.
- DOT's first priority is the interstate system – it is our national evacuation route and must be kept open for traffic.
  - DOT's second priority is four and five lane state routes. These state routes carry most of the local traffic.
  - Our last priority is two lane state routes and depending on the severity of the situation, two lane state routes may not get any work from DOT crews.
- WARNING:** As the weather system enters their area, the public is strongly encouraged to refrain from all but necessary driving. If driving is required, motorists should call 511 or visit [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org) for current information on road conditions. Reduced speed, patience and extreme caution are urged at all times. Drivers are advised to stay at least 100 feet behind and to not pass Georgia DOT equipment treating roadways.

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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## FACT SHEET

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### Georgia DOT Winter Weather Preparedness

Georgia DOT is prepared and equipped to ensure the safety of our roadways this winter.

- Across the affected parts of the state, nearly all Georgia DOT personnel will be on call.
- Approximately 2,300 Georgia DOT maintenance and construction employees will be on active duty across the state

#### The Equipment

- Tandem trucks and dump trucks with snowplows attached to the front to push the snow and ice from the roadways.
- Tandem trucks and dump trucks with hopper spreaders or tailgate spreaders attached to the rear to distribute the salt mixture used for de-icing the roads.
- Tandem trucks or dump trucks with *both* salt/rock spreaders and snowplows attached.
- Tractor type motor graders for moving snow.
- Chainsaws for removing trees and branches from the roadway.

#### Snow and Ice Removal

- Keeping the roads safe for emergency vehicles is our first priority.
- Interstates are cleared first, and then state routes from the most heavily traveled to the least traveled.
- The most common de-icing mixture is a 3:1 ratio of small '89 stone' and sodium chloride (salt). It is effective in breaking up ice and snow until temperatures drop below 25 degrees.
- If temperatures dip below 25 degrees, calcium chloride is added to the stone/salt mixture.
- The tandem dump trucks mounted with spreaders can carry approximately 8 to 12 tons of the de-icing mixture.
- The Georgia DOT will bring in crews and equipment from other offices to help with a particularly hard-hit area whenever necessary.
- The tandem trucks and dump trucks are refueled constantly during a storm to prevent any lag time in the crews completing their routes.

#### General Preparedness

- The Georgia DOT maintains a staging area in most counties. These county maintenance buildings each stockpile salt, fine gravel, fuel and any supplies needed for emergencies.

- The Georgia DOT's Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs) will be monitoring traffic along I-85, I-75, I-20 and I-285 in the metro Atlanta area in order to assist motorists with car trouble or to help clear accidents and stalls from the roadway.
- In the metro Atlanta area, the traffic operators at the Transportation Management Center in southeast Atlanta constantly monitor the traffic cameras along the interstates looking for signs that roads are icing up and relay those locations to the maintenance office.
- Communications personnel across the state will be at the Transportation Management Center and the district offices to provide constant updates to the media.
- We monitor all local weather reports on television and radio, in addition to receiving regularly updated weather information from national sources.

## **Safety Tips**

- *Motorists should not pass a DOT dump truck spreading the salt/stone mixture, as stones may get kicked up at their cars and could break windshields. Please follow at least 100 feet behind DOT vehicles.*
- *Motorists need to be mindful of Georgia DOT crews working to clear the snow and ice from interstates and state routes.*
- *SLOW DOWN at least half your normal speed and use a low gear as you drive.*
- *If you come to a traffic signal that is not working, treat it as a four-way stop.*
- *Beware of black ice, especially on bridges and watch for fallen trees or power lines.*

## **By the Numbers.....**

### **Statewide, we have...**

- Approximately 2,300 employees on call
- Approximately 21,200 tons of gravel
- Approximately 24,500 tons of rock salt.
- Approximately 780 pieces of snow removal equipment

### **In District 1, Northeast Georgia, we have...**

- over 300 employees on call
- 110 snow plows
- 94 Spreaders
- 4,983 tons of salt
- 2,619 tons of gravel
- 43,221 pounds of calcium chloride
- Contact Teri Pope –

### **In District 2, East Central Georgia, we have...**

- 364 employees on call
- 7 Detachable Hopper Spreaders
- 30 Snow Plows
- 34 Tailgate Spreaders
- 9 Motorgrader
- 3,040 tons of salt
- 2,430 tons of gravel
- Contact Cissy McNure -

### **In District 3, West Central Georgia, we have...**

- 399 employees on call
- 4,600 tons of salt
- 4,000 tons of stone
- 45 snow plows
- 7 hopper spreaders
- 42 tailgate spreaders
- 17 motor graders
- Contact: Kimberly Larson – (706) 741-3439

### **In District 4, Southwest Georgia, we have...**

- Over 300 employees on call
- 245 tons of salt
- 182 tons of 89 stone
- 6 tandem dump trucks with snow plows and hopper spreader attachments
- 15 additional tandem dump trucks
- 17 motor graders
- Contact: Craig Solomon – (229) 309-9706

### **In District 5, Southeast Georgia, we have...**

- Over 350 Employees on call
- 250 tons of salt
- 4000 tons of gravel
- 25 tandem dump trucks
- 6 detachable hopper spreaders
- 6 snow plows
- 77 dump trucks
- 17 motor graders
- 17 or more aggregate spreaders provided by vendors (if needed)
- Contact: Erica Fatima – (404) 631-1836

### **In District 6, NW Georgia, we have...**

- Over 290 employees on call
- 60 snow plows
- 60 Hopper Spreaders
- 3,900 tons of salt
- 4,000 tons of gravel
- Contact: Mohamed Arafa – (770) 359-9523

### **In District 7, Metro Atlanta, we have...**

- Over 300 employees on call
- 50 dump trucks with spreaders and plows
- 15 front end loaders
- 11 tandem dump trucks with spreaders and plows
- 6 motor graders
- 91,896 pounds of calcium chloride
- 7,501 tons of salt
- 3,624 gals of Liquid De-Icer
- 5 hopper spreaders on 450 crew cab trucks
- Contact Mark McKinnon – (404) 631-1832