

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release:
Monday, January 10, 2011

Contact: Karlene Barron/Jill Goldberg
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GEORGIA DOT CREWS BATTLE ICE AND SNOW LADEN ROADWAYS: CAUTIONS BIG RIGS TO LIMIT TRAVEL TO EMERGENCIES ONLY

ATLANTA—Georgia DOT crews continue to battle treacherous roadway conditions across Georgia. Tractor trailers attempting to move through the state are experiencing difficulties with the road conditions, resulting in many accidents, as well as significant traffic delays due to blocked roads.

“Our maintenance crews are still working as hard as they can to clear the lanes, but we are facing more ice and freezing rain as we move into the evening.” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr.

Rotating 12-hour shifts are continuing through tomorrow, with more than 760 Georgia DOT maintenance crews and employees working through the night. These crews are using about 670 pieces of equipment to spread more than 6500 tons of salt and gravel material across the roadways.

“We are still concentrating our number one priority of working on clearing interstates, especially for use by emergency and other essential personnel,” said State Maintenance Engineer, Eric Pitts. “The interstates are proving to be difficult for vehicles to maneuver, so please try to avoid any travel if at all possible.”

The Department has also been working diligently to try and notify major trucking firms and trucking associations of the dangerous conditions still on Georgia roadways. Much of the current delays and backups are a result of tractor trailers’ inability to successfully maneuver the icy conditions on bridges, overpasses and interstates around Atlanta. We are encouraging our trucking partners to delay travel through the state until at least Tuesday afternoon to allow for improvement and stabilization in the current road conditions. Due to freezing rain and sleet south of I-20; the following areas of the roadway are experiencing especially icy conditions.

- I-285 EB at I-75 (just below the Airport) jackknifed tractor trailer blocking the roadway
- I-75 NB at Mount Zion road; Southlake Mall area. Extreme delays and extreme icing in the area
- I-75 NB at the 120 Loop/Marietta-Roswell
- I-285 EB at Clifton Springs, Bouldercrest Road area. Tractor trailers are just stopped and blocking the roadway so we are unable to get to the icy spots. Our spreader trucks are trying to come from the southern areas and back into it--but it is a slow and laborious process
- I-675 @I-285 area is completely iced over

GDOT crews have treated and retreated all areas, but due to the freezing rain, there continues to be ice developing on the roadway. It is taking our trucks much more time to get to these problem areas because many tractor trailers are blocking the roadway. Large trucks are asked to stay off the roadways, if at all possible. Those on the southern side of the state, especially in the Macon area, heading toward Atlanta, are requested not

to come into the Atlanta area unless absolutely necessary.

Weather reports call for more freezing rain south of metro Atlanta and so we encourage truckers to stay off the roadways if possible, and if they must be on the roads, please exercise extreme caution when moving through the area.

· **The Transportation Management Center (TMC) Emergency Operations Center (EOC):**
Media Phone Lines – (404) 635 8093 and 8094. Karlene Barron and Jill Goldberg will alternate 12-hour shifts at the EOC. (Note - This is the Department’s statewide command center and the clearinghouse for real-time conditions; it is your best source for current status of roadways.

· **Cheshire Bridge Road (Metro Atlanta) Maintenance Facility:**
Mark McKinnon at (404) 326-6672 and David Spear at (404) 326-6668 will alternate 12-hour shifts at this site.

· **District One (Northeast Georgia) Gainesville Headquarters:**
Teri Pope and Rick Parham, both at (404) 274-6436, will alternate 12-hour shifts at this location.

· **District Two (East Central Georgia) Tennille Headquarters:**
Cissy McNure at (478) 232-3331 will be available as needed.

· **District Three (West Central Georgia) Thomaston Headquarters:**
Kimberly Larson at (706) 741-3439 will be available as needed.

· **Districts Four (Southeast Georgia) and Five (South Georgia):**
Craig Solomon at (229) 309-9706 in Tifton D4 Headquarters will be available as needed.

· **District Six (Northwest Georgia) Cartersville Headquarters:**
Mohamed Arafa at (770) 359-9523 will be available.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

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