



For Immediate Release:
5 a.m. update Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Contact: Teri Pope
404.274.6436

BATTLING WINTER WEATHER IN NEGA

GAINESVILLE, Ga. – Georgia DOT – in conjunction with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and Georgia State Patrol (GSP) – is prepared to respond to two likely winter weather events: one is underway now through approximately Noon, today, and a second likely to begin tonight and continue until perhaps Thursday morning. Both will involve possible snow, freezing rain and ice. Temperatures are expected to be considerably colder during the second event heightening the risk of ice accumulation through Thursday. While temperatures are forecast to remain above freezing, rain and snow are likely and freezing rain may also occur. Driving conditions will worsen throughout the day and particularly so tonight and into Wednesday as the second weather system is expected to feature much colder temperatures and carries the risk of generating significant icing.

Georgia DOT is actively battling sleet in Forsyth and snow on the higher elevations of SR 136 on Burnt Mountain in Dawson County. Recon continues throughout the balance of the region; crews are checking bridges and shady areas for icing and will treat state routes and interstates as needed. Crews in Northeast Georgia began working 12 hours shifts at 8 p.m. Monday night and continue until this winter weather event is over.

“Currently it is snowing on SR 136 across Burnt Mountain in Dawson County and sleeting in Forsyth County with rain in the rest of Northeast Georgia. We ask you to please stay home and not drive unless it is necessitated by an emergency,” asked Bayne Smith, District Engineer for Northeast Georgia. The Department advises the public to refrain from all but absolutely necessary travel.

Motorists are urged to:

Check weather conditions before you leaving Friday morning and stay off the roads unless it is an emergency if conditions warrant in the Northeast Georgia Mountains. Choose caution and stay where you are instead of driving in hazardous winter weather conditions.

Slow down and stay behind the snowplows. The road behind the plow will be the safest place to drive. Allow at least ten car lengths between your vehicle and snowplows or hopper spreaders.

Do not pass. The plows are wide, and sometimes a group of trucks will work in tandem to clear snow quickly, especially on major highways.

Be particularly aware of black ice conditions on surfaces such as bridge decks and entrance and exit ramps late tomorrow night and the early hours of the morning.

Remember that technology helps, but only to a point. Four-wheel drive, anti-lock brakes and traction control are beneficial advancements in today's cars, trucks and SUVs, but they can't take the place of good driving habits and the need to reduce speed on snowy or icy roads.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to exercise caution and call 511 for updated information on roadway conditions before getting on the road during a winter weather event. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, including winter weather closures, reports of icing or other hazardous conditions on interstates and state routes. 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. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTNE) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

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