

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Monday, December 21, 2015

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GDOT Suspends Construction Lane Closures for Christmas and New Year's Holidays

TIFTON, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation is once again restricting lane closures on roads near major shopping centers and tourist locations during the Christmas and New Year's holidays to offset increased traffic.

Georgia DOT is suspending construction-related lane closures from 5 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 through 10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, on interstates, major state routes or roads near major shopping centers, malls or districts and tourist locations. For New Year's, restrictions will be in place from 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 until 5 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2.

“We know that a lot of people will be hitting the road for the year-end holiday season and we want to make it a little easier for them to travel through Georgia and arrive safely at their destinations,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry said. “I urge all motorists to do their part to keep one another safe by obeying all traffic laws and being courteous to their fellow travelers. Please drive safely and enjoy the holidays.”

To date, fatalities statewide are up 16% from last year. If you're on the road as the year winds down, please wear your seatbelt, obey speed limits, don't drive impaired and avoid distractions while driving.

Holiday lane restrictions do not include emergency lane closures that may be necessary. The Department reminds travelers that crews may still be working in proximity to highways and state routes and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures to remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency, maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.

For updated information about travel conditions on Georgia's interstates and state routes, GDOT advises travelers to call 511 or consult www.511ga.org before heading out. Georgia 511 is a free service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide. Callers can also transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you are involved in a crash or your vehicle breaks down, remain in your car unless your life is in imminent danger. Pull onto the nearest shoulder as far from the travel lanes as possible and call 511 for HERO assistance in Metro Atlanta, or 911 for medical emergency service anywhere in Georgia.

Also note that Georgia's Move-over Law requires drivers to move-over one lane when a law enforcement, emergency vehicle or construction crew is on the side of the road and displaying flashing emergency lights. If it is unsafe to move over, then slow down below the posted speed.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and don't text; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA. For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>. You also may follow us on (www.facebook.com/GDOTSW) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTSW) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTSW>).

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