



**For Immediate Release:**  
Monday, February 10, 2014

**Contact:**  
Mohamed Arafa  
770.359.9523 Mobile

## Georgia Dot Is Prepared To Clear State Highways From Snow And Ice In Northwest Georgia

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. - The second batch of the 2014 winter weather may hit North Georgia this evening through Wednesday morning with the mountains getting 3-5 inches of snow accumulation. This potential strong winter weather episode is a reminder for the state that despite the relative warm weather of the last two days, Old Man Winter is here and may stay for some time. For crews with the Georgia Department of Transportation in Northwest Georgia, that means the potential for long days and nights keeping the roads clear and safe for the traveling public.

“The last winter storm forced Georgia DOT crews in Northwest Georgia to use more than three times as much salt and gravel as we normally use during a two day winter storm to keep our roads clear of ice and snow,” said Ken Howard, maintenance district engineer at the DOT office in Cartersville. “We have been replenishing our supplies and our crews are ready to go to work keeping our highways open and safe for the traveling public.”

Georgia DOT snow and ice clearing crews are working in 12 hour shifts using the Georgia DOT priority routes system. The first shifts, which began the preparation process at 7 a.m. this morning is now monitoring the road conditions and ready to respond. Second shift, which will most likely be out clearing the roadways from any snow accumulations, will start at 7 p.m. this evening.

When winter weather hits Northwest Georgia, keeping the state highways safe for emergency vehicles becomes a top priority. Georgia DOT crews focus first on clearing interstates and heavily traveled state routes from snow and/or ice, and will specifically target areas vulnerable to freezing, like hills, ramps, bridges and interchanges. Motorists are urged to:

- 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 tonight and the early hours of tomorrow 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.
- Call 511 or visit [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org) to get current information on road conditions. 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](http://www.511ga.org)

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, and traffic and weather conditions through Georgia 511 - a free phone service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators to 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. Additionally, 511 is available online. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, visit [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org). For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release RSS feed. You also may follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).

###