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Contact:
Mohamed Arafa
770.359.9523 Mobile

Gearing up for the Second Round

GEORGIA DOT CONTINUES TO URGE DRIVERS IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA TO STAY OFF THE ROADS FOR TWO MORE DAYS

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. – The Georgia DOT– in conjunction with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and Georgia State Patrol (GSP) – is finishing its strong response to the first of two likely winter weather events: one has been a source of ongoing snow accumulations and some icing in Northwest Georgia since midnight on Monday, and a second likely to begin tonight and continue until perhaps Thursday morning that is expected to bring more snow and possible freezing rain and ice to North Georgia and Metro Atlanta.

Snow and ice clearing crews in Northwest Georgia are now treating the following impacted highways (newly listed impacted highways are **highlighted**):

I-59 and State Route (SR) 136 in Dade County

SR 140 and SR 372 in Cherokee County

SR 61 in Paulding County

SR 52 and SR 61 in Murray County

SR 6 in Polk County

I-75 in Catoosa County

SR 157, SR 48, and US 27/SR 1 in Chattooga County

SR 151 and SR 193 in Walker

SR 101, SR 100, and SR 140 in Floyd County

I-75, SR 156 and SR 53 in Gordon County

SR 225 in Murray County

SR 2, SR 282, SR 382 and SR136 in Gilmer County

SR 337 in Walker County

SR 2 in Whitfield County

SR 20 in Bartow County

The latest weather forecast calls for a catastrophic winter storm warning weather event early Wednesday through Thursday morning. Beginning 2-3a.m. Wednesday morning, heavy snow across north Georgia and crippling ice across east central Georgia are very likely. Freezing rain is expected across metro Atlanta and central Georgia Wednesday afternoon through Wednesday evening.

Once clearing the roads from remnants of the first round of this one-two punch winter storm, Georgia DOT's crews will take the opportunity to begin spreading salt & gravel mixture in advance of the storm tonight. The Department continues to urge drivers to stay off the roads in Northwest Georgia for at least one more day to give crews time to work on the roads that are expected to be covered with sheets of snow and ice if the second round of this catastrophic winter storm delivers what is expected.

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.

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- 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 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

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. 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/pages/Georgia-DOT-Northwest/1443260995894791?ref=settings>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).

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