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## GEORGIA DOT URGES MOTORTIST TO WATCH OUT FOR SPOTS OF BLACK ICE ON NORTHWEST GEORGIA HIGHWAYS

CATERSVILLE, Ga. – Georgia DOT officials are advising motorists in Northwest Georgia to watch out for black ice forming on the highways as rain and snow/sleet mix freeze on the dark pavement overnight and into tomorrow morning. Northwest Georgia skies are expected to clear later tonight, but clear skies mean lower temperatures to worsen already dicey road conditions. Many parts of Northwest Georgia will spend a good part of the night in the mid-20s to around 32. Slippery conditions on bridges and overpasses could linger into Friday, depending on how much sun shines over the area.

These officials are concerned about Friday morning's driving conditions and the possibility of black ice, which forms when a thin layer of water on the pavement freezes. It can be nearly impossible for drivers to spot it in time to slow down. "Drivers on Northwest Georgia roads are advised to use extreme caution if they have to go out tonight or early tomorrow morning," said DeWayne Comer, a DOT district engineer in Cartersville. "You could run across a slick spot at any point," Comer said. "The morning commute may prove to be a real challenge."

Motorists are urged to slow down and leave, at least, a two car length distance between their vehicles and the vehicle in front of them. If you do hit an icy patch while driving, turn your steering wheel in the direction of the slide. Motorists are also advised to treat any traffic signal that is not working as a four-way stop, and be aware of black ice, especially on bridges and overpasses in the early morning hours.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, 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 [511ga.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftans>) .

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