

PRESS RELEASE

Visit us on Facebook or



For Immediate Release:

Monday, February 12, 2014

Contact:

Kimberly Larson
706.741.3439 Mobile

GEORGIA DOT IS PREPARED TO CLEAR STATE HIGHWAYS FROM SNOW AND ICE IN WEST CENTRAL GEORGIA

THOMASTON, Ga. - The second batch of the 2014 winter weather is headed to West Central Georgia this morning through Thursday morning with a projection of 1/4-1 inch of ice and snow accumulation. This potential strong winter weather episode is a reminder for the state that despite the relative warm weather we enjoyed last weekend, Old Man Winter is here and may stay for some time. For crews with the Georgia Department of Transportation in Central Georgia, that means the potential for long days and nights keeping the roads clear and safe for the traveling public.

“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,” said Clay Moore District Maintenance Engineer.

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 4 a.m. this morning is now monitoring the road conditions and ready to respond. Second shift will start at 4 p.m. this evening.

When winter weather hits West Central 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 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 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 Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GDOTWest>).

###