



For Immediate Release:
Thursday, February 13, 2014

Contact:
Karlene Barron or Natalie Dale
404.635.2490 or 2491

1 p.m. Update:

Metro Atlanta and East Central Georgia...

Georgia DOT Warns of Continuing Dangerous Driving Conditions in Augusta Area; Requests Public Remain Off Metro Roads as Clean-up Continues; Cautions of Widespread Black Ice Risk Tonight

ATLANTA – Although winter precipitation has essentially ceased and temperatures are above freezing, downed and falling limbs, trees and power lines continue to pose an extreme danger in Augusta/Richmond County and a broad surrounding area. The Georgia Department of Transportation warns that driving in the area remains extremely hazardous.

“We have re-assigned some personnel to the area and have dozens of crews working with other state agencies, local officials and the power companies to clear the debris in this area but the public absolutely needs to stay home if at all possible until the roads are cleared, plowed and treated for remaining snow and ice,” Georgia DOT Communications Director Karlene Barron said.

Temperatures have climbed above freezing in the Metropolitan Atlanta area and Georgia DOT crews, in addition to continuing to retreat the Interstate Highway System (including clearing all lanes of I-85 and I-75 from Gwinnett and Cherokee counties to Henry County) and major State routes, are also working on secondary routes and related intersections within the City of Atlanta, such as Moreland Avenue, Memorial Drive at Capitol Avenue, Freedom Parkway, Buford Highway, Lenox Road, etc.

Tonight, however, temperatures will again fall well below freezing and any moisture remaining on roadways will refreeze and the creation of black ice likely will be prevalent throughout most of central and north Georgia. Thus, the Department continues to encourage the public to refrain from all but absolute emergency traveling until midday Friday when temperatures are expected to reach 50 degrees.

“We are so appreciative of the patience and cooperation Georgians have shown by staying off the roadways and allowing our wonderful, tireless and hard-working men and women to do their jobs,” Barron noted. “If people can just bear with us one more day, we think some level of normalcy on most roadways will be possible by Friday afternoon.”

Georgia DOT media contacts remain:

The Special Operations Center (SOC): Located at the Transportation Management Center (TMC) in southwest Atlanta. Media should call Karlene Barron or Natalie Dale at 404.635.2490 and 2491 for updates. **(Note - This is the Department’s statewide command center and the clearinghouse for real-time conditions; it is your best source for current status of roadways.)**

Cheshire Bridge Road (Metro Atlanta) Maintenance Facility: Contact either SOC personnel or David Spear at 404.326.6668.

District One (Northeast Georgia) Gainesville Headquarters: Staffed by Teri Pope and Rick Parham at 770.718.3924.

District Two (East Central Georgia) Tennille Headquarters: Staffed by Cissy McNure at 478.232.3331.

District Three (West Central Georgia) Thomaston Headquarters: Staffed by Kimberly Larson at 706.741.3439.

District Four (South and Southwest Georgia) Tifton Headquarters: Staffed by Nita Birmingham 229.326.5435.

District Five (Southeast and Coastal Georgia) Savannah Area Office: Staffed by Jill Nagel at 912.424.6643.

District Six (Northwest Georgia) Cartersville Headquarters: Staffed by Mohamed Arafa at 678.721.5284.

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