



For Immediate Release
Barron
January 27, 2014
6:30 p.m. Update
2491

Contact: Karlene

or Natalie Dale
404.635.2490 or

Winter Weather Highway Conditions...

Driving Becomes Treacherous With Nightfall, Brutal Cold And Likely Black Ice

Atlanta – Extremely dangerous driving conditions exist throughout most of north and central Georgia. Department of Transportation crews are active throughout affected areas but Georgia DOT is urging motorists to stay off of roads and highways as driving already is difficult and is becoming extraordinarily moreso as night falls, temperature drop into the teens and the likelihood of black ice increases.

“We understand the frustration of so many thousands of Georgians who have had and continue to have a very trying drive home this afternoon and evening,” Georgia DOT spokeswoman Natalie Dale said. “We regret their inconvenience and ask for their patience. We are gratified that we have been able to keep virtually every road in the state passable thus far in what is and will continue to be a dangerous and widespread snow and ice event. We would request motorists remain at home this evening and Wednesday morning and refrain from driving unless required by an emergency. Black ice is going to be a significant problem throughout much of Georgia tonight.”

Forecasts indicate that while precipitation likely will end in the Metro and northern areas of the state by late evening, snow, freezing rain and sleet may continue until daylight along and to the north of a line roughly from Americus to Vidalia to Savannah while temperatures will remain below freezing virtually throughout the state. Crews will work non-stop throughout the night and into Wednesday to clear roadways; they are adding calcium chloride to the traditional salt and gravel mixture to enhance ice melting in the extreme cold.

The Department advises the public to refrain from all but such absolutely necessary travel until midday Wednesday at the earliest. **If motorists must travel, please be patient with conditions and with one another and be extremely cautious. Slow down considerably; allow extra distance between yourself and other vehicles, maintain a steady speed; avoid lane changing and sudden acceleration or braking; and never pass a Georgia DOT, contractor or local government truck treating the road. Also, avoid driving during overnight hours as black ice will form on streets, roads and highways and is virtually impossible to detect in the dark.**

The only roads officially closed at this time are the customary winter weather closings of State Route 180 Spur in Towns County and a portion of State Route 348 in While County.

Currently classified as temporarily unpassable are Interstate Highway 575 northbound in Cherokee County at Cumming Highway, State Route 156 east and west bound in Gordon County, portions of State Routes 38 and 92 in Fulton County and Langford Parkway/State Route 166 in south Atlanta. Crews are working all locations.

If they simply must be on the road tonight, motorists should exercise extreme caution at all times and be especially mindful if travelling on any of the following roads, all of which had icing conditions reported at some point during the past several hours. Each has been treated but ice, especially black ice, may easily re-develop after dark...

In Metro Atlanta:

- Interstate Highway 285 interchanges at several locations in Cobb, Fulton and DeKalb counties;
- Langford Parkway/State Route 166 in Fulton County;
- State Route 13 in DeKalb;
- State Route 3 in Fulton;
- State Route 41 in Cobb County; and
- Interstate Highways 85 and 20 in Douglas County.

In central and west central Georgia:

- Interstate Highway 85 and I-185 in Troup and Harris counties;
- Interstate Highway 85 and State Routes 154, 16 and 34 in Coweta County;
- Interstate Highway 75 and State Routes 3, 19/41, 20 and 42 in Henry County;
- Interstate Highway 75 and State Route 92 in Spalding County;
- State Routes 92 and 85 in Fayette County;
- State Route 116 in Harris;
- State Routes 27 and 190 in Meriwether County;
- State Routes 100 and 120 in Haralson County; and
- State Routes 1, 22 and 219 in Troup.

Northwest Georgia:

- Interstate Highway 75 in Bartow and Dade counties;
- Interstate Highway 59 in Dade;
- Interstate Highway 575 State Route 140 in Cherokee County;
- State Routes 156 and 53 in Gordon County;
- State Route 92 in Paulding County;
- U.S. 411 and State Routes 1 and 101 in Floyd County;
- State Route 1 in Chattooga County;
- State Routes 136, 157, 58, 299 and 301 in Dade;
- State Routes 3, 20, and 113 in Bartow; and
- State Route 157 in Walker County.

East central Georgia:

- Interstate Highway 20 from Rockdale County to Taliaferro County;
- All I-20 elevated structures;
- The I-20/State Route 22 interchange in Taliaferro;
- State Routes 212, 81 and 20 in Newton County;
- State Routes 12, 15 and 77 in Greene County;
- State Route 12 in Morgan County; and
- State Route 10 in Oglethorpe County.

Northeast Georgia:

- Interstate Highway 985 and State Route 365 in Hall County;

- State Route 400 ramps to State Route 141 in Forsyth County;
- State Route 141 in Gwinnett County;
- State Routes 53 and 136 in Dawson County;
- State Routes 9 and 60 in Lumpkin County;
- State Routes 15, 17 and 105 in Habersham County;
- State Routes 11, 75, 115 and 356 in White County;
- State Route 2 in Rabun, Union and Towns counties.

The Department is issuing periodic media advisories. In addition, representatives will be available at the locations and via the phone numbers listed below throughout the weather event:

The Special Operations Center (SOC): Located at the Transportation Management Center (TMC) will activate at Noon, Tuesday. 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 Mark McKinnon at 404.326.6672.

District One (Northeast Georgia) Gainesville Headquarters: Contact Teri Pope at 404.274.6436.

District Two (East Central Georgia) Tennille Headquarters: Contact Cissy McNure at 478.232.3331

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

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

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

District Six (Northwest Georgia) Cartersville Headquarters: Contact Mohamed Arafa at 770.359.9523.

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