

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release:
Friday, January 13, 2012 – 2:30 a.m. update

Contact: Teri Pope
(404) 274-6436

GEORGIA DOT URGES EXTREME CAUTION THIS MORNING IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA

GAINESVILLE, Ga. – Winter weather and strong winds hit Northeast Georgia last night. This battle appears to be over in Northeast Georgia. Georgia DOT continues to urge motorists to check roadway conditions before venturing out this morning. Fallen limbs, trees and power lines were the biggest problem on roadways overnight.

WHEN: Trees began falling last night at 9 p.m. and snow fall ended by 11 p.m. while the last crew finished their work by 1:30 a.m. this morning. Only a few “scouts” remain out checking road conditions until daybreak.

WHAT: Currently there are *no reported* trouble locations in Northeast Georgia.

Possible trouble locations for early morning travel:

1. Bridges as black ice forms there first and can reform quickly
2. Highest elevations or gaps in Dawson, Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White Counties
3. Fallen power lines, limbs, trees, root systems are weak because of the drought and high winds are expected so trees across the roadway and pulling down power lines or traffic signals

HOW MANY: Georgia DOT has only a few “scouts” monitoring conditions and checking bridges for black ice in the areas that had snow and high winds overnight. Additional staff will report to work if needed. Local law enforcement will report any snow accumulation, black ice or downed trees to the Department and Maintenance Forces will begin work.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to exercise caution and call 511 for updated information on roadway conditions before getting on the road during a winter weather event. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, including winter weather closures, reports of icing or other hazardous conditions on interstates and state routes. 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. For information on the Department of Transportation, visit (www.dot.ga.gov); you also may follow Georgia DOT on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) (<http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/gadepoftrans) (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).

###