



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 28, 2000 10:00 A.M.
SUBJECT: ICE STORM UPDATE

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR MISSISSIPPI MOTORISTS

The Mississippi Highway Patrol is reporting the following conditions from around the state....

- District 2-- Greenwood: slush on roads, light ice on bridges. All roads passable. Use caution.
- District 3-- Batesville: slushy roads, light ice. Light snow now. Roads passable.
- District 4-- New Albany: snow on all roads, slushy, packed snow on bridges. Very slick. Roads are passable but very hazardous.
- District 5-- Starkville: Slushy roads and bridges. Currently light rain. Roads passable with caution.

The National Weather Service has downgraded its Winter Storm Warning for Central Mississippi to a Winter Weather Advisory. Conditions across Central Mississippi are expected to improve throughout the day and into tomorrow. At release time, scattered rain was being reported with temperatures above the freezing mark. However, some bridges and over passes in Central Mississippi may still have patchy accumulation of ice or sleet, making travel hazardous. Motorists are urged to continue using caution when driving.

North Mississippi remains under a Winter Storm Warning. Scattered areas of rain and freezing rain mixed with sleet will continue across the warning areas and temps will hover between 20 and 34 degrees through Noon. Heavy snowfall overnight combined with additional winter precipitation will make travel extremely hazardous in North Mississippi. Residents are asked to remain off of the roads and highways if at all possible. However, all state roads are open and passable at this time.

Roundup of state office openings

The Division of Medicaid is requested its employees to report to work by 11:00 a.m. if roads are clear and passable.

Employment Security Commission is open - State headquarters and Jackson Metro offices

MS Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab is open

MDHS (Human Services): State headquarters and Hinds County offices are open; employees should report to work by 10:00 a.m.

The State Board of Public Accountancy has rescheduled its meeting from Friday to Monday at 1 p.m.

Other state offices may be open or planning to open. All state employees in Central and South Mississippi who were placed on administrative leave yesterday should contact their agencies for specific instructions.

Confirmed closings

The Attorney General's Office will remain closed today, Friday, Jan. 28.

STATE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

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