

NCDOT Crews Battle Extreme Cold to Clear Roads

Written by Jordan-Ashley Baker
Monday, 06 January 2014 16:12

The N.C. Department of Transportation's snow and ice removal efforts went smoothly Monday night, despite arctic temperatures throughout the mountains and foothills.

Temperatures overnight in some mountain counties reached 14 degrees below zero with wind at 20 mph. A few counties reported minor technical difficulties when equipment froze because of the extreme cold, but those issues didn't significantly impact snow removal.

Most interstates in the region are clear, but as temperatures have stayed below freezing Tuesday, icy patches are possible. Motorists are encouraged to use caution and look out for any NCDOT crews working along the roads.

Here's some information on road conditions throughout the western region:

Division 11 (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin counties):

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Some primary roads are partially covered in and west of Boone, but crews are working to clear those roads as soon as possible. To accommodate those efforts, Watauga County crews have 3,100 tons of salt and 3,200 gallons of gas and 3,000 gallons of diesel.

Crews in Ashe County reported 6 inches of snow in some areas, with temperatures hovering at 7 degrees below zero. NCDOT crews are currently working to clear secondary roads in western Ashe County, where wind caused snow drifts.

Division 13 (Buncombe, Burke, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, and Yancey counties):

Interstates and primary routes in Division 13 are clear. Crews will continue to work on the division's secondary routes today, particularly in Madison, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

Some counties in the division will have crews working tonight to address any problem areas that may remain.

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. Another option is NCDOT Mobile, a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website. To access it, type “m.ncdot.gov” into the browser of your smartphone. Then, bookmark it to save for future reference.