

Travel Treachery Hits High Country

Written by Steve Frank

Wednesday, 22 January 2014 07:04

The blast of cold air and snow turned much of the High Country into an ice rink as temperatures dropped and snow fell. Tynecastle Highway near Food Lion down into Banner Elk was turned into a parking lot with skidding, slipping vehicles, and at one point, a tractor trailer jack-knifed across the road. Eventually, Avery law enforcement and volunteer firemen blocked the Tynecastle area entirely, stopping traffic at NC 105. But the travel nightmare was not limited there, as the Cove Creek and Zionville areas of western Watauga turned into a similar travel nightmare with several injury wrecks. But the eastern edge of the area did not escape unscathed, with a van overturned on US 321 just east of Blowing Rock.

Watauga wrecks were reported on Vanderpool Road near 421 at dusk, a 5:25pm crash, one on Old 421 near Odes Wilson Road at 5pm, just before that, one on Old 421 at Cove Creek Store, a wreck at about 1:30 on Old US 421 at Hite Williams Road with the vehicle upside down, and for a time, entrapment of the drive.

Photos: Webb painting' s Bryan Webb pulled tractor trailer over the gap on 184 from Sugar Mountain entrance where the tractor was stuck--Dirk Brown. Other Photos: Dave Faherty, WSOC-TV, Brian Fisher, WECR-AM