

Snow Travel Troubles, Wrecks

Written by Steve Frank

Wednesday, 29 January 2014 06:18

The rest of the state got to experience what the High Country has for the winter season, and while we've had schools close and lots of schedule changes, many Foothills, but especially Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas are at a stand-still with a fraction of the precipitation we get. But many of these areas are not only not used to the winter weather, but have few resources to deal with the snow, sleet, and icy conditions. We had quite a few wrecks across the High Country yesterday, the state patrol extremely busy, and a few had some injury, but many more involved folks calling someone to help pull vehicles out of ditch lines and from other predicaments. Still snowing this morning—be careful if you must go.

While N.C. Department of Transportation crews continue clearing snow and ice in western North Carolina, about 10 percent of the region's resources, including personnel and equipment, are traveling to the eastern part of the state where more than a foot of snow is expected to accumulate.

Substantial forces will remain in each western North Carolina division, where some counties have been working on snow and ice removal since this weekend. Today's snowfall throughout the western region necessitated continued de-icing operations, but each division has adequate resources remaining to continue treating roads.

Some divisions have chosen to supplement existing de-icing crews with contractors used routinely during winter snow and ice removal.

Here's how each of the divisions contributed to de-icing efforts in eastern North Carolina:

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

-Sent 10 trucks with 24 employees to Division 4 (which includes Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Wayne and Wilson counties)

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-Retained 130 trucks and 200 employees in the division

Photos: Brian Fisher