

Winter Weather Makes For Tricky Travel

Written by Brian Fisher

Wednesday, 27 November 2013 09:59

Winter weather has made it a tough go for holiday travelers as rain, ice, and snow has made the busiest travel day of the year even more chaotic. What began as rain Tuesday afternoon switched into ice

early Wednesday morning then quickly to snow, dumping several inches within minutes across the High Country.

Several accidents were reported in the early morning hours Wednesday, many of them reports of vehicles stuck on the side of the road due to slick and icy roads. One report of a vehicle sliding off of US 184 and into the Mill Pond in Banner Elk around 7 AM. No one was injured in the incident. Another vehicle came to rest in Old Toe River in the Frank Community at 1270 US 19E after sliding off of the highway with no reported injuries.

Injuries were reported in an accident that took place at the intersection of Highway 321 and US 421 in Vilas around 1 p.m. Slick roads in Avery County led to a vehicle turnover along Trim Branch around 2:30 p.m. with no injuries reported.

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In Blowing Rock, a short section of US 321 Bypass near the Cliff Dwellers Hotel and Food Lion was closed in both directions due to a rock slide that took place early Wednesday. A large boulder above the road in this area had the potential to fall in the road, so the contractor is broke up the boulder and removed it. The road has since reopened.

US 221 near Linville Caverns closed due to a rockslide for a couple hours, but has since reopened.

Weather conditions also made it a tough morning for power companies as crews with Blue Ridge Electric worked through the early morning hours to restore power to residences in Watauga County.

Travel will remain tough throughout the day as a Winter Storm Warning remains in effect until midnight Wednesday with numerous scattered snow showers expected across the Tennessee border counties. Two to 6 inches of snow are expected with high winds creating blizzard-like conditions.