
From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Haley, Nikki; Haley, Michael; Patel, Swati; Pisarik, Holly; Smith, Austin; Priester, Nicole; Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Peters, Hal
Subject: Re: EMD Alert - Upstate Winter Weather

We are in good shape right now but the event is still unfolding, so conditions could worsen.

Forecast is at or just above freezing in affected northern counties but will drop below freezing again tonight. Reports are still coming in about amounts of ice accumulation.

No significant outages reported but are expected to rise throughout the day.

No major traffic issues now.

No requests from counties. EMD is hosting a call with all counties at 10am, so we will know more after that.

Guard has staged with Highway Patrol, but they have not yet been needed.

Several counties have closed offices or are in delay today. Closed (Greenville, Pickens, Cherokee, Lancaster, Spartanburg). Delay (Oconee, Florence, Chesterfield, Laurens, Darlington).

Kim recommends we hold on any emergency declaration for now and reassess closer to noon today. Triggers for a declaration would be county operations and needs.

Dot has pretreated roads and continues to watch road temperatures, plow or deice roads as necessary, and work in 12 hour few shifts.

766	Maintenance employees actively involved with road operations
2,110	Tons of Salt (cumulative total)
130	Tons of Sand (cumulative total)
1,650	Gallons of calcium chloride
273,350	Gallons of salt brine
933	Equipment available

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 21, 2016, at 6:11 PM, Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

The forecast has gotten more serious than hoped. Up to 0.5" of ice is now forecast for the northern most parts of the state. See charts below for ice and snow accumulation totals. The winter weather should hit tonight beginning at midnight but should not last beyond Saturday.

EMD is moving to OPCON 4 tonight just to get key personnel on standby in case they are needed. Only three counties have chosen to move to OPCON 4.

DPS has requested the Guard contribute wrecker crews and equipment to assist them with anticipated traffic and road issues expect early tomorrow, which has been exercised in past winter storms (2014). Livingston has the authority to preposition personnel and is beginning to do so this evening (he has the funding to cover up to 72 hours of staging and limited response actions without needing a declaration of emergency from the Governor). They believe this is the best and safest course of action.

No other state agency and no county has requested any additional assistance. All are prepared to respond and are responding within their normal duties and authority so far.

Kim Stenson recommends that the Governor wait to assess the situation tomorrow morning (8-9am) to see whether an emergency declaration is needed. The event is not forecast to last very long, so early tomorrow morning will be a good time to evaluate and respond to any potential needs. I will plan to touch base with Kim around 6am in case early reports indicate a need for swifter action.

Note that both NC and GA have declared states of emergency. We know NC is expected to get hit pretty hard, and while GA is not, Kim reports that they are over-reacting on purpose to prevent a 2014 repeat where they were significantly underprepared.

If our office wanted to send a statement to the press for public safety in affected counties (to stay off roads, avoid icy conditions, etc), then that would be in line with messaging sent out today by EMD, DOT, and DPS.

<image1.PNG>

On Jan 21, 2016, at 9:57 AM, Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

A **winter storm warning** is in effect for the counties in the Upstate and along the NC border, and a **freezing rain advisory** is in effect for the counties just south of those (Midlands to Pee Dee). The majority of the state will see rain with some flurries possible.

This is not expected to be a major, statewide storm event.

Forecast: Between 0.25-0.4" of ice and 1-2" of snow are expected tomorrow as well as wind gusts as high as 23 MPH in the affected counties. The winter weather is expected to last through Saturday.

Effects on SC:

Power outages should be expected. Power lines can usually hold 0.25-.5" of ice, not counting for fallen limbs.

Some county/state offices may close tomorrow due to overnight ice accumulation.

Poor road conditions are anticipated in some areas (I-85 corridor), but with road temperatures remaining at at-or-above freezing, they may fair better than anticipated.

State Agency Actions:

EMD is conducting a conference call this afternoon with affected counties to assess their needs, if any. They will continue to monitor the storm and will staff the EOC as needed.

DOT has already moved affected districts into 12-hour shifts. They have unlocked procurement and have inventoried more than enough supplies if needed. Will send us regular updates on road conditions.

ORS has a conference call scheduled with the co-ops and Duke Energy to make sure crews are prepared to move in if needed. Will send us regular updates on power outages.

Governor Actions: At this time, there are no requests for the Governor.

***Note on Conference Calls – This would only be necessary should conditions worsen to the point where there is significant ice accumulation, counties are requesting state assistance, and the state emergency plan needs to go into effect – and therefore, state agency coordination and an emergency declaration would be necessary. While it is possible for this event, Kim Stenson does not believe it is likely.

