



Cullman County Emergency Management Agency

**Basement
2020 Beech Ave SE
P.O. Box 924
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0924**

TO: All Department Heads
FROM: Phyllis Little, Director
DATE: November 26, 2013
SUBJ: Winter Weather Road Conditions

In conjunction with Alabama Department of Transportation officials, the Cullman County EMA is recommending that the following phrases be used in describing road conditions during winter weather events. By using the same phrases, all departments, agencies, etc. will have the same understanding of road conditions and information given out to the public will be consistent.

Key Phrase

Definition

Advisory

Motorists are advised to use extreme caution when traveling.

During winter weather this often means that overpasses, bridges, and roadways at higher elevations are beginning to freeze or are covered with snow. Traffic is moving but with difficulty. Accidents have occurred. **Non-essential travel discouraged.**

Impassable

Vehicular travel is prohibited on this roadway due to unsafe roadway conditions. Emergency response personnel are engaged in other response activities and are unable to install road closure devices at this time. All non-emergency travel strongly discouraged.

During winter events this means that many areas blocked because of accidents. Traffic is at a stand still in some areas. All non-essential businesses and industry are encouraged to consider shift delays or closing during this time. **AL State Troopers may not be writing accident reports when roads are deemed impassable.** Local law enforcement policy will determine whether or not reports will be written by local officers.

Closed

No traffic permitted on this roadway except for emergency response and law enforcement. During winter events this means that roads must be blocked by barricades and have signs designating "Road Closed." **No** travel authorized. Vehicles will be ticketed. Interstate, U.S. and State routes can only be closed by Alabama State Troopers. County roads may be closed by the County Commission within the jurisdiction. Municipal or city streets may be closed by the mayor or city council with jurisdiction.

AL DOT Road Advisories across the state can be accessed on the internet at http://www.dot.state.al.us/mcrweb/road_advisories.htm .

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