

PENNDOT ENGINEERING DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allentown, PA (March 13, 2017)

Weather reports are predicting the most significant part of the storm to hit the Eastern half of the state from Monday night into Tuesday's commute. To allow road crews to do their jobs and minimize dangerous travel, certain vehicles will be restricted from interstate highways and expressways. And all motorists are asked to avoid unnecessary travel during this time.

Due to predicted extreme winter weather, beginning at 10 p.m. this evening PennDOT is reducing speed limits to 45 mph and temporarily restricting certain vehicles from interstates and expressways in eastern Pennsylvania.

When conditions improve, PennDOT will remove the travel restrictions.

Beginning at 10 p.m. tonight the following types of vehicles will be prohibited from traveling on the interstates and expressways:

- Empty straight trucks;
- Large Combination Vehicles (tandem trailers and doubles); • Tractors hauling empty trailers; Trailers pulled by passenger vehicles; • Motorcycles; • Buses; and • Recreational Vehicles, or RVs.

The purpose of the ban is to help ensure that the roadways remain open during the most challenging conditions of the storm. When conditions improve, PennDOT will remove the travel restrictions.

“District 5 has 336 on-the-road workers, and all are ready to respond during this storm,” said PennDOT Assistant District Executive for Maintenance Jill Krause. “We’ll have crews operating our 209 plow trucks around the clock. We ask motorists to do their part by limiting trips and driving according to conditions.”

PennDOT encourages drivers to do their part by following some simple guidelines:

- Monitor weather forecasts and postpone travel if necessary, especially over long distances during the storm.
- Slow down while driving when snow is falling and always wear your seat belt. Leave plenty of distance between you and the vehicles you are following.
- During squalls or whiteouts, do not stop on the roadway. Come to a complete stop only when you can safely get as far off the road as possible or when there is a safe area to do so.
- When encountering plows, stay at least six car lengths behind an operating plow truck and remember that the main plow is wider than the truck.
- When a plow is approaching you, move as far from the center of the road as is safely possible and remember that snow can obscure the actual snow plow width.

During a storm, PennDOT's primary goal is to keep roads passable, not completely free of ice and snow. PennDOT will continue to treat roadways throughout the storm until precipitation stops and roads are clear. Also, higher volume roads take priority.

PennDOT reminds motorists to pack an emergency kit for their vehicles. A basic kit should include non-perishable food, water, blanket, small shovel and warm clothes. When preparing an emergency kit, motorists should consider special needs of passengers such as baby food, pet supplies or medications and pack accordingly.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 825 traffic cameras. 511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

For more winter driving tips and information on how PennDOT treats winter storms, visit www.PennDOT.gov/winter. Additional winter driving and other highway safety information is available at www.PennDOT.gov/safety.

Follow regional PennDOT information on Twitter at www.twitter.com/511PAAllentown, and like the department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaDepartmentofTransportation.

To view a complete list of District 5 News Releases: Click <http://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-5/Pages/allnews.aspx>

PENNDOT ENGINEERING DISTRICT 5

1002 Hamilton Blvd. Allentown, PA 18101

Contact: Ronald J. Young Jr., (610) 871-4555