



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

DJJ North GA Winter Storm Advisory

Governor Deal declares emergency for 15 North GA counties Commissioner Niles “DJJ has plans in place”

Gov. Nathan Deal signed an executive order Sunday evening to declare a state of emergency for disaster preparedness for several north Georgia counties now under a winter storm warning. The governor signed the executive order on a recommendation from the state's Emergency Operations Command.

Governor Deal has declared emergencies for Catoosa, Dade, Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Rabun, Towns, Union, Walker, White and Whitfield counties.

DJJ Commissioner Niles Avery D. Niles said, ***“The governor has declared an emergency for 15 north Georgia counties. Please plan accordingly, keeping in mind our employees, with the exception of all essential and emergency personnel for the affected areas named in his press release.”***

Commissioner Niles already has pre-planning in place this weekend in the event the winter weather becomes a challenge to department operations in north Georgia. The Commissioner said all of the state employees in those 15 counties are encouraged to telecommute as outlined in the Governor's press release.

Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown said, ***“DJJ staff who are in the affected 15-county area should be aware of the winter weather response plan for their office or facility. Staff who are unsure of their work unit instructions or pre-coordinated transport plans should contact their supervisor or workplace to confirm their inclement weather guidelines,”*** the Deputy Commissioner said.

All DJJ staff should also tune to WSB radio and WSB TV for official updates. The DJJ Office of Communications will also post updates on the official department website at www.djjnewsandviews.org and through news releases to statewide news media.

Governor Deal said his office and GEMA will monitor the weather throughout the night and allocate state resources as needed should ice formation creep further south into the metro area.

END DJJ ADVISORY – GOVERNOR DEAL RELEASE BELOW

Deal declares emergency for North Georgia counties

February 15, 2015

Governor's move opens up state resources for disaster preparedness in areas expecting ice

Acting on a recommendation from the state's Emergency Operations Command, Gov. Nathan Deal this evening signed an executive order to declare a state of emergency for disaster preparedness for the 15 North Georgia counties under a winter storm warning and will ask state workers in affected areas who are not involved in emergency response to work from home.

"I am issuing this order out of an abundance of caution, so the state can make all preparations necessary to quickly and efficiently address any potential winter weather problems," said Deal. "We will monitor the weather throughout the night and allocate state resources as needed should ice formation creep further south into the metro area."

Deal has declared emergencies for Catoosa, Dade, Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Rabun, Towns, Union, Walker, White and Whitfield counties. The governor's order notes that in these counties forecasts call for ice accumulation and moderately high wind gusts that could bring down tree limbs.

"I remain hopeful that the low pressure system will move northward, thus allowing warmer temperatures into our state," Deal said. "With forecasts showing temperatures hovering around the freezing point, however, we have to work on the assumption that we'll face icy conditions."

In an effort to minimize the number of afternoon commuters, Deal is directing state agency heads to close state offices in the 15 affected counties as well as on Capitol Hill, with the exception of all essential and emergency personnel. State employees in these areas are encouraged to telecommute.