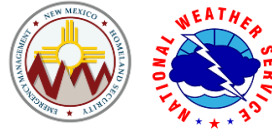


Susana Martinez
Governor

JOINT INFORMATION
RELEASE 1



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For Immediate Release
December 27, 2015

Eastbound I-40 to Remain Closed at Big-I During Morning Commute *Commuters urged to seek alternative route*

Santa Fe, NM – The New Mexico Department of Transportation announced tonight that eastbound I-40 will remain closed at the Big-I through tomorrow, which will cause delays for commuters. The department is asking commuters to plan ahead and seek alternative routes.

Currently in Albuquerque, I-40 east of the Big-I is obstructed with stranded commercial motor vehicle traffic waiting for roads into Texas to be opened. No Albuquerque traffic will be allowed east of the I-40 Interchange.

Both Texas and Oklahoma have shut down I-40 travel across their states. New Mexico will continue to keep I-40 closed as well, until conditions improve. The interstate will not reopen any time within the next 16 hours, and will likely remain closed longer due to continued extreme weather.

Reports are still being received of motorists stranded in vehicles along roadways throughout the state. As Governor Martinez has said repeatedly “avoid driving unless it's absolutely necessary.” County Emergency Managers and law enforcement are having a difficult time keeping the roads cleared of vehicles due to accidents. Drivers are putting emergency responders at risk when they go out and cross barricades to roads that are closed. The roads are closed for safety reasons – to prevent loss of life and limit areas that require first responder action.

The New Mexico State Police (NMSP) would like to reach out to all motorists traveling to the eastern United States and request motorists make arrangements to travel south from I-25 to I-10 if they are passing through New Mexico.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHSEM), Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Department of Public Safety (DPS) and National Guard are continuing to respond to the needs of communities affected by the winter storm that has paralyzed the east and south east

portions of New Mexico. Periods of snow and strong winds will continue east of the central mountain chain through this evening with light to moderate snow. Travel will remain dangerous across most of eastern New Mexico this evening due to strong winds and blowing drifting snow. Snow and wind should taper off later this evening or overnight.

For the latest New Mexico road conditions visit www.NMRoads.com or call 511.

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