

### Winter Storm Response - January 2016

"Due to the uncertainty of the event, we must be prepared"



### Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations 48 Hours Pre-Storm

Met with State Emergency Management Team to discuss storm impact and plan our coordinated response.

- Weather service briefings & meetings with allied state agencies.
- Patrol members scheduled to staff State EOC.

<u>Conference call with Troop and Unit Commanders</u> across the state to discuss Patrol storm preparations and personnel welfare.

- Troopers statewide notified and schedules altered to provide maximum coverage during the storm.
- Troopers assigned to Motor Carrier Enforcement duties are reassigned to areas and responsible for calls for service.

### Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations 48 Hours Pre-Storm Continued

- Patrol Communication Centers recall off duty personnel to fully staff the centers due to call volume spikes.
- Meetings and training events cancelled to allow assigned members to assist with calls for service.
- Deployment of prepositioned snow tires.
- Patrol 4x4 vehicles are checked and placed in service for use.
- Patrol's Public Information Office activated at State EOC to assist with the spread of storm related information and safety messages.

# Highway Patrol Winter Storm Patrol Operations – VIPER Communications System (Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders)

VIPER Unit – Ensures the operational readiness of the system so nearly 80,000 emergency responders statewide can communicate.

- VIPER System allows public safety agencies (Fire, EMS, LEO, State Agencies and NCNG) to communicate effectively with each other during winter storms.
- NOC (Network Operations Center) is staffed and the statewide system is monitored 24 hours a day to maintain system operational effectiveness.
- VIPER Radio Technicians placed on call for response to system outages.
- Operational analysis of system is continually monitored for outages and disruptions throughout the storm and if a disruption occurs a VIPER Technician is immediately dispatched to the location.
- Tower back up generators are checked and fueled if necessary.

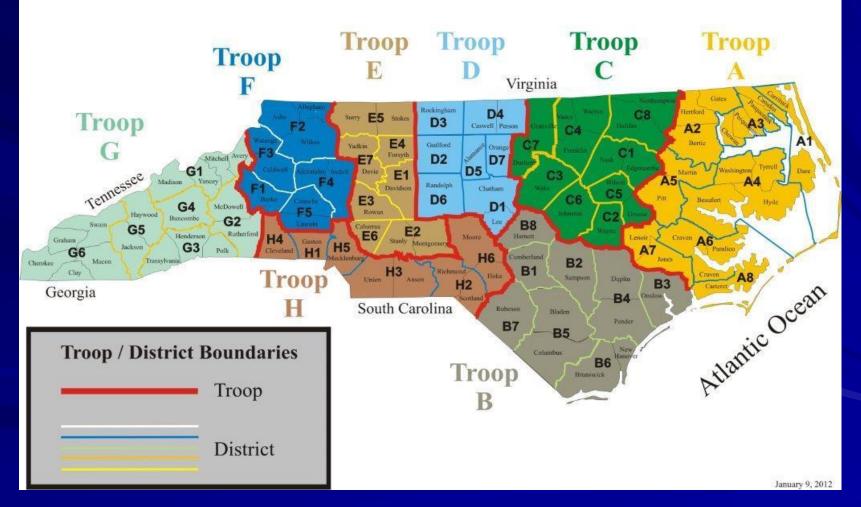
## Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations 24 Hours Pre-Storm

Met with North Carolina Department of Transportation to discuss storm impact and implementation of Quick Clearance statute along major highways.

- Main focus is for coordinated effort between SHP and DOT IMAP to remove vehicles that constitute a hazard or impede emergency snow removal related operations
- Patrol members statewide begin tagging vehicles with orange stickers.
- Quick Clearance Law 20-161. Stopping on highway prohibited; warning signals; removal of vehicles from public highway.
- (f) Any investigating law enforcement officer, with the concurrence of the Department of Transportation, or the Department of Transportation, with the concurrence of the investigating law enforcement officer, may immediately remove or cause to be removed from the State highway system any wrecked, abandoned, disabled, unattended, burned, or partially dismantled vehicle, cargo, or other personal property interfering with the regular flow of traffic or which otherwise constitutes a hazard.

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### North Carolina State Highway Patrol Troop and District Boundaries



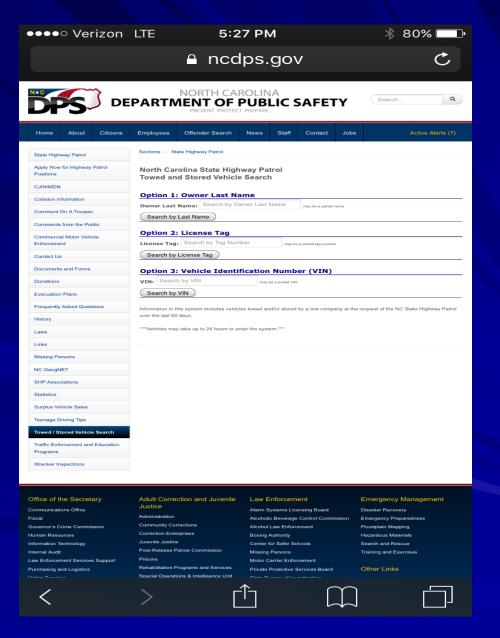
### Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations - Storm Impact

#### **Patrol Command group relocates to State Emergency Operations Center**

Emphasis to Troops and Allied agencies that major roadways should be patrolled for abandoned vehicles and checked for stranded motorists. The cold weather conditions make <u>assisting stranded motorists a priority!</u>

- The statewide Universal Marking System for checking abandoned vehicles with crime or fire line tape was implemented throughout the state with all emergency service partner agencies to eliminate duplication of vehicle search efforts & to ensure no one is stuck out there freezing to death.
- The marking system rapidly identifies vehicles that have already been checked and passing emergency responders don't have to stop again.
- Maintained conference calls with Troop and Unit Commanders across state to address areas of concerns, the need for additional resources or assistance across Troop boundaries.
- Patrol Communication Centers initiate situational reporting (SITREP) every six (6) hours on road conditions, significant events, collisions and calls for service volume.
- Patrol Command group attends daily operational briefings at State EOC.

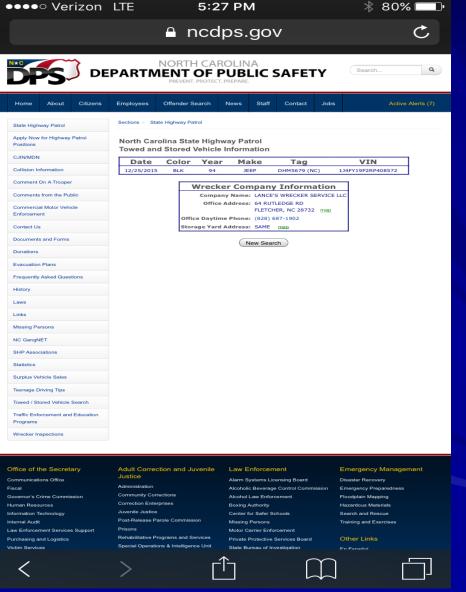
## **Public** Towed Stored Vehicle Search



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# Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations Calls for Service and Patrol Costs

- 4,915 storm related calls for service statewide.
- 2,494 storm related collisions investigated statewide.
- 6 storm related traffic fatalities statewide.

### Forsyth County

- On Wednesday, 20 January 2016 at approximately 4:15 p.m.
- A vehicle traveling east on Vance Road lost control on the snow causing the vehicle to cross the center line and strike a westbound vehicle head-on.
- As a result of the collision, the eastbound driver was killed. The westbound driver was not injured.

### Stokes County

- On Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at approximately 5:45 p.m.
- A vehicle traveling north on William Fowler Road crossed the center line and traveled off the southbound shoulder of the road and down an embankment. The vehicle overturned and came to rest on its top in a creek.
- As a result of the collision, the driver was killed.

### Wilkes County

- On Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at approximately 7:20 p.m.
- A vehicle traveling south on Rock Creek Road near Elmore Road lost control due to the snow & ice causing the vehicle to travel left of center into the path of an oncoming vehicle.
- As a result of the collision, the front seat passenger in the southbound vehicle was killed.

### Johnston County

- On Friday, January 22, 2016 at approximately 8:21 a.m.
- A tractor trailer traveling south on I-95 lost control and jackknifed blocking both southbound lanes of I-95 near the 105 mile marker. A pick-up truck traveling south on I-95, struck the jackknifed tractor trailer. The driver of another tractor trailer also traveling south on I-95 avoided striking the jackknifed truck and pick-up by traveling off onto the southbound shoulder, striking a guard rail.
- As a result of the collision, a passenger in the pick-up truck was killed.

#### Catawba County

- On Friday, January 22, 2016, at approximately 10:06 a.m.
- A vehicle traveling north on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave lost control on the snow and ice causing the vehicle to travel off the road onto the right shoulder and strike an adjacent tree.
- As a result of the collision, the driver succumbed to her injuries. Investigators are attempting to identify the time of the collision.

### Iredell County

- On Friday, January 22, 2016, at approximately 1:50 p.m.
- A pick-up traveling north on I-77 lost control on the snow and ice causing the vehicle to travel onto the right shoulder and strike a tow truck that was removing a disabled vehicle.
- As a result of the collision, a 6-year old passenger was killed. Three other passengers were injured and transported to the hospital with minor injuries.
- The driver of the pick-up was charged with Misdemeanor Death by a Motor Vehicle, No Operator's License, Fictitious Registration and No Insurance.

# Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations Note Worthy Events

Rowan County - Trooper deliberately struck by ATV (4-Wheeler)

On Saturday, January 23, 2016 at approximately 2:00 a.m. A state trooper was on routine patrol when two all-terrain vehicles (ATV) were observed on N.C. 153, within the travel lanes. After activating his emergency equipment, the trooper attempted to stop the operators of the ATVs. The operators pulled onto Harmony Lane, located within a subdivision in China Grove. The trooper exited his vehicle and began to approach the ATV's. At that point, one of the operators intentionally drove toward the trooper at a high rate of speed, striking him. The operator then turned around and attempted to strike the trooper a second time. At that point, the trooper discharged his service weapon attempting to avoid further injury, causing both operators to flee the scene.

The trooper received serious but non-life threatening injuries and was transported to Carolinas Medical Center-Northeast in Concord. Investigators are requesting the public's assistance in providing any information in identifying the suspects. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Highway Patrol Communications Center at (800) 233-3151.

# Highway Patrol Winter Storm Operations <u>Assisting Allied Agencies</u>

- NC Emergency Management
- NC Department of Transportation (IMAP)
- NCDMV License & Theft Enforcement
- NC Wildlife Resource Commission
- NC Alcohol Law Enforcement
- NC National Guard Units
- Many local Sheriff Offices assigned Deputies to assist with abandoned vehicle searches and calls for service related to winter storm response.

These agencies assisted the Patrol with checking primary and secondary routes statewide for stranded motorists.











**Questions?**