

February 2007

Storm Disaster Timeline

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

2:37 p.m. Winter Storm Watch issued for region.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

3:22 p.m. Winter Storm Watch upgraded to Winter Storm Warning, to take effect at 7 a.m. on February 13.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

5 a.m. Snow starts falling in Central PA.

Morning Governor's Office issues press release outlining Commonwealth storm preparation urging motorists to call PENNDOT's 24-hour hotline for road conditions.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10 a.m. -12 p.m. Trucks begin to get stuck on I-78 – eastbound between Lenhartsville and Kutztown and westbound near Route 61 west of Hamburg.

12 p.m. PENNDOT advisory for I-78 in Berks County – traffic stopped on I-81 near Avoca.

5 p.m. Conference call with emergency management officials – no mention of traffic jams.

8 p.m. Governor advised of stranded motorists on I-78, I-80, and I-81.

9 p.m. National Guard begins to deliver food and water to stranded travelers.

11 p.m. PENNDOT advisory that I-81 between Exit 96 in Schuylkill County and Exit 138 in Luzerne County is reopened.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 1 a.m.** PENNDOT advisory that I-81 is closed between Ft. Indiantown Gap and Tremont (22 miles).
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- 2 a.m.** PENNDOT advisory that I-81 has been reopened between Ft. Indiantown Gap and Tremont.
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- 6 a.m.** PENNDOT advisory that I-78 is closed between Exit 19 Strausstown and Exit 29 Pottsville (10 miles).
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- 8 a.m.** PENNDOT advisory that I-78 from Route 100 to I-81 is closed (50 miles); some entrance ramps mistakenly remain open.
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- 9:30 a.m.** Governor departs from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh to hold forum on energy issues and attend other regional meetings.
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- 2 p.m.** Governor's Office files press release declaring Proclamation of Disaster Emergency.
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- 5 p.m.** All entrance ramps now closed on I-78 from Route 100 to I-81. I-81 from Ft. Indiantown Gap to Wilkes-Barre closed (93 miles). I-80 closed eastbound from Route 11 in Columbia County to the I-81 interchange north of Hazelton in Luzerne County (21 miles) and westbound from Exit 304 to I-81 (44 miles).
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- 5:30 p.m.** Governor returns to Philadelphia from Pittsburgh.
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 1 a.m.** All vehicles finally removed from I-78, I-80, and I-81.
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- Morning** Governor apologizes in Philadelphia for mishandling the disaster and launches investigation. Lt. Governor Knoll, chair of PA Emergency Management Council, files press release announcing support of the Governor's disaster proclamation. Highway advisory phone number changed to tourism call center for road condition updates.
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- 4 p.m.** Interstates 78, 80, and 81 reopened at reduced speeds.
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