SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

SUBJECT: Winter Weather Possible Tuesday, January 29th  
SITREP #: Update 3  
ISSUED: Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:00pm

OVERVIEW

The NWS has upgraded the Winter Storm Watch to a Winter Weather Advisory for metro Atlanta and Georgia Tech from 3:00am to 7:00pm Tuesday.

Updated NWS guidance remains similar to previous forecasts. The main area of uncertainty still lies with the arctic air mass and how it impacts precipitation type/amount, especially in the area from Atlanta southwest to LaGrange. There is little model consensus on how much snow this area will receive. Some models forecast trace (<0.5”) amount of snow, while others have the cold air mixing more quickly producing higher (up to 1.5”) snowfall amounts. This is likely to be a situation where we will not know which scenario will play out until the system is upon us.

Luckily, the front will move into and out of the area very quickly. Sun will return in the afternoon, but it will be blustery and cold. Temperatures Tuesday PM and Wednesday AM will be frigid however, they should rise above freezing by noon Wednesday. Once temperatures exceed 32°F, our black ice threat will be greatly diminished.

Georgia Tech will also be closed on Tuesday, January 29, 2019. Our office will be meeting with GT Executive Leadership on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the Institute’s operational hours for Wednesday. Notification of changes in operational hours, if any, will be sent through GTENS.

Figure 1: NWS Peachtree City Forecast
PRIMARY HAZARDS
The primary hazard will be from light accumulating snow/rain freezing to roadways.

TIMING
The system should impact the region Tuesday morning, with snow possible from 8AM-1PM.

NEXT STEPS
- For timekeeping purposes, campus officially closes at 8:00am Tuesday AM and remains closed until resumption of normal operations.
- Operational departments on campus should initiate their winter weather plans.
- Follow the GT Office of Emergency Preparedness on twitter @gtpdalerts.
- Our office will continue to provide updates as necessary.
- For the latest forecast information, please visit the National Weather Service at http://weather.gov/atlanta.