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## Heavy Snow Blankets Bulgaria

4 January 2009, Sunday



Heavy snow is covering all regions of Bulgaria on Sunday, with the snowfall expected to continue through the day. Photo by Sofia Photo Agency | [buy photo](#) |

Heavy snow is covering all regions of Bulgaria on Sunday, with the snowfall expected to continue through the day.

In the Western parts the snow cover is going to reach 15 cm; a little bit less is expected in Eastern Bulgaria.

The roads are passable under winter conditions. There are many icy or snow covered spots in the areas with higher elevations.

The National Agency "Road Infrastructure" announced that there is snow fall on various sections of the "Trakya" highway. Snow emergency crews are cleaning and sanding those sections, the Interior Ministry's press center reported.

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Heavy trucks traveling through the Petrohan, Velingrad-Sunita, Batak-Dospat, Rozhen, and Prevala mountain passes are required to have chains and cannot carry trailers.

The mountain passes Tvurditsa-Elena, Etropole-Zlatitsa, Arabakonak, Troyan-Kurnare, Vurbitsa-Sungurlare are closed.

The snow cover on the Shipka pass is 10 cm with continuing snowfall; the road has been constantly cleaned by the emergency crews. Traffic there is reported as very light.

The crews are actively cleaning roads in the regions of Blagoevgrad, Kuystendil, and Smolyan.

Crews are cleaning the main thoroughfares in Sofia. Side streets are not cleaned yet.

The Sofia public transportation is running with slight delays, especially in the more distant suburbs.

Heavy traffic and congestion are expected at the entrances to the capital later during the day and the evening when Sofia residents begin to return home after the Holiday vacation.

The National Agency "Road Infrastructure" has issued a warning to drivers to use extreme caution and avoid risk driving and passing.

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