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NEWS
ROADS IN SOFIA AND BULGARIA STILL PARTIALLY FROZEN

10:58 Mon 05 Jan 2009 - Nick Iliev

A mopping up operation of Sofia streets and roads around Bulgaria is underway. However, most of them remain under a blanket of snow and ice. Inner borough streets in Sofia will not be cleared, however, reports the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency - the BTA.

The explanation offered by the municipality is that vehicles usually travel slowly in central streets, hence there is no overwhelming need for the clean-up operation to be implemented here. The money saved from not cleaning up inner city streets will go towards the next heavy snowfall.

The main urban road network is, however, being cleared. This includes all boulevards, main arteries, intersections and bridges. Bus and tram stops across the city are also a priority. Sofia's main streets will be cleaned with a magnesium solution to prevent future freezing – at least for the present.

Sofia Municipality have reminded people that it is their responsibility to clean up the area around their property, pavements and parks as well as access routes to blocks of flats.

Meanwhile, many roads across the country are still frozen or partially frozen. Visibility is also severely reduced in some parts of the country, down to 50 metres, particularly around Mezdra, Muglitzh and most mountain regions.

The passes at Etropole – Zlatica, Tvurdica- Elena, Troyan – Kurnare and the Vurbishki pass are all closed. All vehicles travelling in Rozhen, Pamporovo, Prevala, Predela, Slive, Kotel, Slunchev Briag, must be equipped with chains.

Erosion and landslides have been detected around Sofia – Samokov, Mezdra – Botevgrad, Assenovgrad – Smolian, Yugovo – Luky, Krichim – Devin and around the region of Koznitsa.


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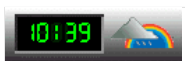
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