



# COUNTY DECLARES LOCAL EMERGENCY; MOTORISTS ADVISED TO STAY OFF ROADS

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December 19, 2009

*News release 1  
12/19/09 4 p.m.*

**Montgomery County, Virginia** –Montgomery County officials declared a local state of emergency Saturday morning as snow blanketed the area and traffic crawled to a halt along Interstate 81 from exits 118 to 128. While major thoroughfares are now passable, motorists are still advised to stay off the roads unless there is a medical emergency as roads are expected to freeze when night falls.

As many as 400 vehicles, including 100 tractor-trailers, were stranded overnight along this 10-mile stretch of the interstate, according to Emergency Services Coordinator Neal Turner. About 20 people sheltered at the Christiansburg Fire Department and 25 people at the Elliston Fire Department.

“The temporary shelters emptied late this morning as the interstate became passable and traffic resumed at a snail’s pace,” Turner added.

Approximately 50 fire and rescue personnel assisted the Sheriff’s Office and Virginia State Police over the past 24 hours. “Everyone’s exhausted but thankfully there have been no injuries or fatalities,” Turner said. “At this time all motorists have been assisted who were stranded along the interstate through the County. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) continues to scrape and apply chemicals.”

The County’s consolidated sites and Montgomery Floyd Regional Library branches closed early Friday afternoon and remained closed on Saturday. Check [www.montva.gov](http://www.montva.gov) and [www.mfml.org](http://www.mfml.org) for latest details on closings and delays.

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