

Deep South Cooled Under A Deep Blanket Of Snow

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A band of snow, freezing rain and sleet blew out of Texas and across the Deep South Friday, spreading misery into usually balmy areas, and depositing enough snow in Florida to make snowballs.

At least four traffic deaths were attributed to the storm.

As the snow continued to fall, Baton Rouge residents became convinced it wasn't a passing flurry. Offices, stores and schools were closed and everybody tried to get home at the same time.

Stranded in the snow at the bottom of a hill, one motorist shouted, "Ain't this the bunk."

Weathermen said it was the first time Baton Rouge has ever seen snow twice in the same winter.

It was the second snow of the season for Florida, too, where enough of the white stuff fell for snowballs in the Panhandle area. There were even reports of Florida snowmen.

Howard Powers, principal at the Century, Fla., high school said, "The kids have been able to make slush balls, and they've had a time throwing 'em at each other."

While temperatures hovered around the freezing mark throughout northern Florida, it was a balmy 78 at Miami, some 600 miles to the south.

The storm blanketed much of middle Georgia with snow, causing mammoth traffic jams in Columbus and Macon.

Mayor J. R. Allen of Columbus called it quits about noon, and closed city offices. Many businesses also closed as motorists, unaccustomed to such weather, tried to beat the snow-storm home. Some streets became impassable.

Driving was hazardous throughout a wide area of middle Georgia and schools were closed in some communities.

Accumulations of more than four inches were reported.

Rain fell in other areas, and there was a warning of a possible ice storm throughout a wide area of the south, including portions of the Gulf Coast, southern portions of South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

In Atlanta, about 100 miles north of Columbus, Ga., where an ice storm caused millions of dollars in damage last month, residents watched overcast skies with anxiety as the temperature dropped into the 20s.

In Texas, travel came to a standstill in many areas. Up to four inches of snow fell in southwest Texas. The band of snow extended all the way south to the Upper Texas coast.

San Antonio, normally sunny and warm, reported about two inches of snow.

The University of Texas at Austin and all public schools in the capital were closed as streets became coated with ice and snow.

Schools were closed in Alabama, south of Montgomery, as up to five inches of snow fell in some areas. Driving was hazardous over most of the southern part of the state.

SOUTHERN PART OF S.C. AGAIN WEATHER TARGET

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A second wave of harsh winter weather moved over South Carolina Friday, with a travelers advisory in effect for the southern portion of the state.

However, this time it won't be as severe as that of early January, which left a coat of ice and snow over most of the state and forced the closing of many schools and businesses, and gave state employes a few extra holidays.

The Columbia Weather Bureau was forecasting a mixture of rain, sleet and snow Friday, with accumulations of sleet and snow generally light and less than one inch.

The travelers advisory for the southern areas, including the south midlands and south coastal zones, was to continue at least until late Friday night and possibly early Saturday.

An earlier advisory for the northern midlands had been discontinued by Friday afternoon.

Temperatures Friday were mostly in the 30's, with rain and some sleet reported.

A small craft advisory was in effect for the lakes and along the coast, with icy winds gusting between 15 and 25 knots.