

# Deep South of Nation Is Knee-Deep in Snow

ATLANTA (UPI)—A "once-in-a-hundred-years" snow-storm whipped across the Deep South today, blanketing the Mississippi Gulf Coast and dumping nearly a foot of snow on the midsection of Georgia.

The storm, rolling rapidly out of Louisiana, was blamed for three traffic deaths as it whipped through Mississippi and Alabama and spawned a line of squalls in Florida that damaged half a dozen homes near Stuart.

Eleven inches of snow was on the ground at Macon and the city was practically snowbound. The mayor there declared a state of emergency.

The National Guard was called out to rescue stranded motorists in central and south Georgia. It was the heaviest snowfall in a decade on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Sleet and freezing rain hit the Carolinas' coastland early today and Wilmington, N.C., was blanketed with six inches of snow.

The storm followed a belt-line pattern, and except for frigid temperatures, missed Atlanta and North Georgia completely.

"This is probably what you would call a once-in-a-hundred years snow," said Columbus Mayor J. R. Allen. "And certainly the city is not equipped with snowplows and equipment for this situation."

The city measured nine inches of snow by early today.

Hazardous travel warnings were issued for northwest Florida and winds of from 25 to 30 miles an hour brought rough seas and high tides to Tampa.

South Carolina braced against sleet and freezing rain

along the coastal areas and in the vicinity of Charleston and up to five inches of snow was expected today in the Aiken and Orangeburg areas.

The snow on the Mississippi Gulf Coast was the heaviest in a decade.

In Mississippi, the National Weather Service reported accumulations of two to four inches of snow along the coast and the state's highway patrol said most major bridges in the area were impassable.

Mississippi Power & Light Co. said electric service was interrupted in some areas north of the coastal region when ice accumulations snapped tree limbs and knocked down wires.

In Georgia, Columbus, Macon and Augusta reported seven inches of snow on the ground by Friday night, the heaviest ever recorded by the National Weather Service since recordkeeping was first started in 1947.

"Please get off the streets and go home for your own safety," said Columbus Mayor J. R. Allen in a special bulletin. City offices, schools and businesses shut down at noon Friday as the snow began to mount.

Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter ordered the National Guard into rescue work on U.S. Highway 80 below Thomaston, where some 20 vehicles, including a Greyhound bus, were snowed in. The rescue teams evacuated occupants of the vehicles, sending them to a special disaster shelter for the night.

National Guard generators also provided emergency power for the hospital at Preston, in Webster County.