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Triad bracing for snow

2 to 4 inches expected by end of night; schools to close two hours early

BY MEGHANN EVANS
Winston-Salem Journal

Triad residents are bracing for the first real chance of snow accumulations this season.

John Diugoenski, a meteorologist with AccuWeather.com, said snow is projected to start falling this afternoon, likely around 3 p.m. in Winston-Salem. About an inch could accumulate by evening, and the area could see 2 to 4 inches by the end of the night.

Winston-Salem/For- syth County Schools on Sunday night announced plans to dismiss two hours early today, and after-school activities are canceled.

Guilford County Schools are also closing two hours early today.

Schools in Alleghany, Rockingham and Watauga counties are closed today.

A winter storm warning is in effect from 4 p.m. today to noon Tuesday in the Triad, according to the National Weather Service. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches is possible in Forsyth and Guilford counties, according to the National Weather Service. Counties along the Virginia border could see 4 to 8 inches of snow, and western counties could get even more.

Diugoenski said snow will likely change to sleet late tonight before precipitation starts to taper off around 3 a.m.

"I think for the morning commute on Tuesday, the precipitation will be (done), but the roads will probably still be slippery," Diugoenski said.

In Winston-Salem, city departments are preparing to respond. City Manager Lee Garrity said Sunday night, "We're expecting somewhere from 2 to 4 inches, so in the morning we will gather all of our staff together and activate our snow plan."

He said they will call in snowplow operators today to make sure all of the equipment is ready, but they won't start salting the roads until the precipitation starts falling.

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BRUCE CHAPMAN/JOURNAL

The maintenance crew at Smith Reynolds Airport — (from left) David Shoaf, Roger Spatcher Jr., Mike Stratton and Karen Johnson — has been getting the airport's 19-foot sweeper and the 10-foot snowblower ready for bad weather.

Crews at Smith Reynolds, PTI watch and wait

BY FRAN DANIEL
Winston-Salem Journal

When bad weather such as snow hits the Triad, local airports have crews ready to work all night if needed to keep runways clear for airplane landings and departures.

"Everything is here," David Shoaf, the airport maintenance supervisor at Smith Reynolds Airport, said of the machinery needed to clear snow. "It's all fueled up. It's 100 percent ready to go. At the first flake fall, we'll be right there."

While Smith Reynolds Airport doesn't have regular passenger aircraft service, it does get large aircraft coming in for maintenance at North State Aviation, medical flights and occasional charter services. The airport's airfield maintenance department has a crew of four — Shoaf, line crew supervisor Karen Johnson, Mike Stratton and Roger Spatcher Jr.



Mike Stratton drives the 10-foot snowblower back to the maintenance area.

"We take care of whatever is inside the fence — runway, taxiway, pavement, lighting," said Shoaf, who uses his background as a former electrician for Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co. at the airport.

Smith Reynolds' main runway is 6,600 feet long. "That's the equivalent to a 10-lane highway, over a mile long," Shoaf said.

The crew has a number of other AIRPORTS, Page 10

All jazzed up

Famed trumpeter still showing kids

"Ewww. It's dirty," some of the boys said. "I'm not putting my mouth on that."

"I'll take it," one boy piped up. in the region and who counted among his friends the late poet, actress and activist Maya Angelou.

