

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Interstate 71 Southbound Re-Opened After Multiple Crashes

DELAWARE - One lane of Interstate 71 southbound was re-opened to traffic at approximately 8:45 p.m. after multiple crashes occurred earlier in the day just south of State Route 61. I-71 will remain one lane between State Route 61 and U.S. Route 36 throughout the night.

Motorists are advised to use caution in this area as semis involved in the crashes remain in the roadway. Crews will come back in daylight hours to remove these vehicles.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol continues to investigate these crashes, which are estimated to involve more than 50 vehicles. Minor injuries have been reported, with one person transported to a local hospital. There are no fatalities as a result of these crashes.

While the crashes were being cleared, Patrol allowed vehicles to proceed through the crash area in intervals to ensure no one was stranded along the interstate. The Patrol was assisted at the scene by the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

Interstate 71 southbound was closed for approximately seven hours following this series of crashes near SR 61. I-71 northbound remained open for the duration of the afternoon and evening.

The Patrol recommends the following tips to assist motorists with winter driving:

- Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic ahead.
- Pay attention to the roadways and weather conditions, as they can change rapidly.
- Always pay close attention to bridges and overpasses, as they are often the first to freeze over.
- If you do slide off the side of the road, stay with your vehicle and call the patrol at 1-877-7-PATROL.
- If you get stuck in snow, make sure that your tail pipe is free of all snow and debris, to decrease your change of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Up-to-the-minute road conditions are always available by logging onto the ODOT's Web site, www.buckeyetraffic.org. ODOT also reminds motorists: Ice and Snow...Take It Slow.

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