INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director -

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AHTD SHIFTS FOCUS FROM CLEARING TO REPAIRING HIGHWAYS

LITTLE ROCK (3-11) – Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) winter weather operations continue across the state as crews turn their attention to patching potholes on the state's highway system, according to Department officials.

The work follows weeks of winter weather across the state that provided little time for crews to attempt repairs between storms. Dry conditions and temperatures above freezing are helping, but the damage is significant and will take time to repair.

"Our maintenance crews performed great work in removing snow and ice this late winter season, however our job continues as potholes have become prevalent around the State," said AHTD Director Scott Bennett. "We appreciate the motoring public's patience as our crews work as fast as they can to patch as many potholes as conditions allow."

Temporary emergency road repairs have already been necessary in several high-traffic corridors, and most of the repairs in the next several weeks will be temporary due to temperatures still being too cold for major asphalt work. Permanent repairs to highways with pothole damage will be made in the spring and summer when warmer temperatures and dry conditions are more conducive to this type of work.

Several reports of potholes on the State Highway System have been routed through the Department's travel and construction information site IDRIVE ARKANSAS. Motorists can click on the "Report a Problem" feature found in the "Contact" section of the site. The feature is designed as a quick and easy way to communicate with the Department.

"I really can't say enough good things about the work our crews have done this winter in clearing the highways through these winter storms," Bennett added. "Now those same crews will once again be in harm's way as they repair the subsequent damage. This is an annual rite of spring – it just seems to be worse this year."

Drivers should exercise caution when approaching and traveling through all highway work zones. Additional travel information can be found at <u>IDriveArkansas.com</u> or <u>ArkansasHighways.com</u>. You can also follow us on <u>Twitter @AHTD</u>.