

AP PHOTO/JOHN BAZEMORE



A truck blocks all eastbound lanes of Interstate 285 in Atlanta, Jan. 29.

Where's My Car? Storm Cleanup in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Police and the National Guard helped people reunite with their abandoned cars Thursday as the logjam on Atlanta highways eased and the roads began to thaw, two days after a winter storm hit the Deep South.

The cleanup could take all day. At the peak of the storm, thousands of cars littered the interstates in Georgia and Alabama. Some people ran out of gas, some were involved in accidents and others simply left cars on the side of the road so they could walk home or to someplace warm. Across much of the South, the sun was out, temperatures were rising, and the snow was beginning to melt.

About 1,600 students in Alabama who spent two nights at schools were finally home, and all of the state's highways were reopened. Still, officials warned drivers to be extremely cautious and to be on the lookout for icy patches. Schools and government offices were still closed in several states.

Fires, Wrecks

At least eight people died from traffic accidents and six peo-

ple were killed in fires blamed on space heaters. The latest was in Savannah, where two children were killed early Thursday as temperatures hovered below freezing. In the Midwest,

It is very surprising to see how many vehicles are still abandoned along the side of the road.

Archer Ford, sergeant first class, National Guard

an 86-year-old woman died of hypothermia outside her suburban Chicago home.

Savannah Fire and Emergency Services spokesman Mark Keller said all evidence indicated an electric space heater caused the fire.

North Carolina still faced icy conditions, with dangerous roads in much of the state as bone-chilling temperatures overnight froze any snowmelt.

Leave Room for Abandoned Cars

There is much cleanup to do. The Georgia State Patrol said more than 2,000 cars were abandoned along the freeways.

Crystal Paulk-Buchanan, a spokeswoman with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, said it was critical vehicles were removed from highways Thursday because the emergency shoulders would be needed when normal traffic returns Friday.

"We ask that all motorists be extremely cautious as they're driving today and give these abandoned cars room so that folks who may be trying to get their car back, that they are able to do that safely," she said.

Overall, the Georgia State Patrol responded to more than 1,460 crashes between Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening, including two fatal crashes, and reported more than 175 injuries.

National Guard Gives Rides

State transportation crews spent much of Wednesday rescuing stranded drivers and moving disabled and abandoned vehicles that littered the interstates' medians and shoulders.

Members of Georgia's National Guard set up at a church Thursday and offered to drive motorists in Humvees and heavy trucks to get their vehicles. Authorities at the make-shift command center could also tell people if their vehicles had been towed; state officials had said a database would be set up for tracking.

"It is very surprising to see how many vehicles are still abandoned along the side of the road," Sgt. 1st Class Archer Ford said.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, more than 400 flights in and out were canceled by 6 a.m. Thursday, according to data from the flight tracking service FlightAware. Many of those flights were canceled before the day began.

From The Associated Press

DC Mayor Outraged Over Death Near Fire Station

By Mary Silver
Epoch Times Staff

A 77-year-old man collapsed across the street from a Northeast D.C. fire station in the nation's capital on Jan. 25. As his daughter held him in her arms, the firefighters inside the station refused to help him. Medric Cecil Mills Jr. died later that day at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, The Washington Post reported.

The mayor of the District of Columbia said he's outraged that city firefighters didn't come to the aid of Mills, a longtime employee of the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation.

Relatives of Medric Mills said he went into cardiac arrest Saturday afternoon in a shopping center parking lot. They said several people went across the street to the station, but no firefighters or emergency medical workers walked over to help. Mills got help 15 or 20 minutes after he fell, when a police officer flagged down a passing ambulance.

Mayor Vincent Gray said Wednesday that he has spoken to Marie Mills, who was with her father when he collapsed.



Washington Mayor Vincent Gray speaking at THEARC in Washington, Jan. 11.

It's hard to get your arms around how and why this happened.

Paul A. Quander Jr., deputy mayor for public safety, Washington, D.C.

Common Decency

Gray calls the incident "an outrage." He said officials are investigating and will hold people accountable. He said those involved failed to show "common decency."

Lt. Kellene Davis was the officer in charge of the fire station when the incident happened, according to WTTG FOX 5. Internal Affairs interviewed her on Jan. 29. She covered her face with a manila folder and would not speak to FOX 5 reporters as she left the meeting. She has been placed on desk duty while the incident is

being investigated, the Washington Post reported.

"There are no regulations or protocols that would have prevented [fire department] personnel on the scene from taking action to help Mr. Mills," Paul A. Quander Jr., deputy mayor for public safety, said in a statement Jan. 30. "It's hard to get your arms around how and why this happened."

Sincere Apology

The firefighters union did not respond to a request for comment by press time, but Ed Smith, president of the firefighters union, issued a statement: "This just shouldn't have happened. We need to find out why it did occur and make sure it never happens again. On behalf of the D.C. Firefighters Association, I offer Mr. Mills's family a sincere apology."

Quander and Keith St. Clair, director of communications for the D.C. Public Safety Department, also did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Terror Suspect Challenges NSA Surveillance Program

By Donna Bryson

DENVER—A terror suspect is challenging the constitutionality of the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program, saying in a court document filed Wednesday that spying by the federal government has gone too far.

In the motion filed in federal court in Denver with help from the American Civil Liberties Union, Jamshid Muhtorov also requested that prosecutors disclose more about how surveillance law was used in his case. Muhtorov denies the terror charges he faces.

Intrusive

Surveillance under current law "is exceptionally intrusive and it is conducted by executive officers who enjoy broad

The statue that authorized the surveillance is unconstitutional.

Jamshid Muhtorov, accused of helping terrorists

authority to decide whom to monitor, when and for how long," Muhtorov argued in his motion.

"The statue that authorized the surveillance is unconstitutional," Muhtorov said, citing constitutional provisions against unreasonable search and seizure.

The ACLU called the filing the first of its kind.

Justice Department spokesman Brian Fallon declined to comment.

The challenge had been expected after the Justice Department in October said it intended to use information gleaned from one of the NSA's warrantless surveillance pro-

grams against Muhtorov. It was the first time the department had made such a disclosure.

The U.S. Supreme Court has so far turned aside challenges to the law on the grounds that people who bring such lawsuits have no evidence they are being targeted.

New Ruling in Chicago

In another case involving the government's surveillance methods, a federal judge in a Chicago terrorism case ruled Wednesday that a defendant's lawyers will be given access to an application prosecutors submitted to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, established to monitor spying within in the United States. The Chicago judge called her pretrial ruling in the case of Adel Daoud a first. Daoud has denied seeking to detonate a bomb in Chicago in 2012.

In the Denver case, Muhtorov was accused in 2012 of providing material support to an Uzbek terrorist organization active in Afghanistan.

Arrested with Phones, iPad, Money, GPS

According to Wednesday's motion, Muhtorov was targeted by the Uzbek government because of his work with human rights groups in his homeland. He fled and resettled in Aurora, Colo., in 2007, as a political refugee and became a legal permanent U.S. resident.

Muhtorov was arrested Jan. 21, 2012, in Chicago with about \$2,800 in cash, two shrink-wrapped iPhones and an iPad as well as a GPS device. In March 2012, his attorney, federal public defender Brian Leedy, said at a court hearing that Muhtorov denied the allegations and had been headed to the Uzbekistan region to visit family, including a sister who remains imprisoned in that country.

From The Associated Press



A sign at the National Security Agency (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md., June 6, 2013.

Philomena Lee, US Lawmaker Push Adoption Rights

WASHINGTON—Philomena Lee wistfully described her search for her son 50 years after his adoption, a quest captured in an Oscar-nominated film.

Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill said Lee's experience was an argument for adoption rights and an incentive for Ireland to open its records.

The two women met Thursday and spoke to reporters about the Philomena Project and efforts to reconcile families. They were joined by Lee's daughter, Jane Libberton, who helped in the search.

The movie starring Judi Dench has drawn attention to Lee's story and what transpired in Ireland for decades. Chil-

Children were adopted by Americans, and their birth mothers were unable to find out what happened to them.

dren were adopted by Americans, and their birth mothers were unable to find out what happened to them.