

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 Noon

Good Afternoon All --

The forecasted quick change over to rain this morning did not occur and as a result, an icy inch of snow and slush was able to accumulate causing hazardous road conditions. As of noon, the Barnegat/Ocean Township area was finally experiencing the switch to rain. However, in the extreme western part of both Townships, a wintry mix of precipitation was still occurring.

When snow started to unexpectedly accumulate this morning, both Townships commenced with an aggressive salting operation. In Barnegat, focus was placed on the major and primary roads in addition to the schools. Around 11:00am this morning, Barnegat dropped plows and started to plow off the slushy accumulation of snow and ice in order to prevent it from freezing on the roads tonight. It is our hope that the majority of roads in the Township will be cleared of the slush prior to sunset when temperatures will drop below freezing and snow once again starts.

Currently, weather forecast are calling for heavy snow tonight. Snow should start after sunset (5pm-8pm) and continue through the night. Snow might be heavy at times with potential snowfall rates of 2 inches per hour or more during the overnight hours. Total snowfall accumulation should be in the 6-8 inch range, with a fair chance of greater amounts in the western part of the Township.

The Thursday morning commute will be difficult. Overnight, Barnegat Township will focus on plowing and treating the major and primary roads in order to best prepare them for the morning rush. The Township will also coordinate with the schools any work required to prepare them for the arrival of students and staff.

Barnegat Township started recycling collection this morning anticipating a quick change over to rain. Due to safety reasons, the Township stopped collecting recycling material at 10:00am. Based on current forecasts, the Township will cancel recycling collection on Thursday for route #3. The decision to collect recycling on Friday for route #4 will be made tomorrow. At this time, Waste Management still plans on collecting trash on Thursday, however that could change based on eventual snowfall received overnight. Needless to say, the numerous snow events has adversely impacted the new recycling collection schedule. Because of snow, there has not been a week yet that the Township has been able to maintain the recycling schedule. The Township will advise residents of the adjusted recycling schedule by Nixle message.

As stated previously, this storm system is complex and forecasters are having difficulty getting a handle on it. The trend with this storm is increasing amounts of snow for the area. Some weather outlets have the Barnegat/Ocean Township region just in the 10-16 inch range. There is no question that the western part of both Townships will receive greater amounts of snow than the eastern portion. Will monitor and keep all current. Township crews are working hard to clear roads

Thanks -- Dave