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Heavy snow shuts down Danube Bridge border checkpoint

Thu, Jan 26 2012 17:21 CET | by [The Sofia Echo staff](#) | 178 Views



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People walk past heavy trucks blocked in the snow during blizzards in Afumati, near Bucharest, on January 26 2012.

Photo: Reuters

Snowdrifts have shut down the main border crossing between Romania and Bulgaria at the bridge over the Danube River, Romanian media reported on January 26.

More than 400 cargo trucks were caught by the heavy snow, blocking the road, Evenimentul Zilei newspaper reported, quoting the Romanian border police.

Local emergency response teams from Giurgiu were working to free the cars, but gave no timeline as to when traffic could resume. In the meantime, incoming traffic was being redirected to the checkpoint's parking lot, while border police planned to distribute more than 50 litres of hot tea to drivers caught in the snow.

Giurgiu county was one of the worst affected by the heavy snowfall, which has swept through Bulgaria and Romania over the past two days. Traffic on the national road linking the town of Giurgiu to Romanian capital city Bucharest, about 90km north, has been suspended because the snowdrifts reached as high as three metres in some areas, with army personnel and equipment called in to clear the snow.

The county was also the place where the cold took its first victim, with a man found dead in his car along with a woman whose life was still in danger, suffering from a severe case of frostbite.

Romanian authorities have extended the code orange weather warning in the south of the country past 6pm on January 26, saying that they expected more snowfall.

In Bucharest, a number of major streets were closed to traffic and efforts continued to clear the snowdrifts on the city's ring road. Snow-clearing vehicles from nearby towns were called in to aid the efforts, but these were delayed for some time after their drivers had to return and purchase road vignettes before proceeding on the motorway.

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