

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

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Gale Road at Coldwater closed to thru traffic until further notice

Flint, Michigan. ---

The Genesee County Road Commission announced this morning that a section of Gale Road in Richfield Township, extending 500' south from the intersection at Coldwater Road, has been closed to thru traffic until further notice. Frost melting from under the road surface has created an area that is very unstable, causing a condition that will not support vehicles. About 11:00pm Friday night Genesee County 9-1-1 reported vehicles stuck in the mud.

Road commission crews were able to keep one lane of the road open until about noon today, when it became apparent that the rain was going to continue with more in the forecast.

At this time of year, nightly freeze/thaw cycles and the effects of frost migration causes the ground beneath roads to become "honeycombed" and fragile, so that potholes can bloom overnight on heavily travelled paved roads and gravel roads can turn to mush.

To help minimize damage to roads during this vulnerable period, weight restrictions are imposed each spring by road commissions across the state.

These Seasonal Weight Restrictions – so-called “Frost Laws” - went into effect on Genesee County roads at 6:00 A.M. on Monday March 8th 2010. This means that, with few exceptions, while these restrictions are in place, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements or pavements with a concrete base are reduced by 25% from the normal maximum axle load, and the maximum axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during these months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as specified.

A wealth of information about these “Frost Law” weight restrictions is available at our website (www.gcrc.org) and from the County Road Association of Michigan at www.micountyroads.org.

While GCRC monitors its roads closely, it welcomes calls from the public regarding severe gravel road problems or dangerous conditions such as large potholes. Motorists can report road issues to GCRC by calling (810) 767-4920, sending an email to rslattery@gcrc.org or clicking on the “Pothole Report” icon on its website, www.gcrc.org.

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