At least 10 deaths from snow

KATE BRUENCKHOEFF AND JAY NELIES

ATLANTA — Snow, ice and a record-breaking blast of cold closed runways, highways, schools and government offices across the South and sent cars sliding off roads Wednesday in a corner of the country ill-equipped to deal with winter weather. At least 12 people died, including a baby in a car that plowed through a slippery ramp into a Louisiana canal. Ticks hung from a statue of jazz musician Louis Armstrong normally honored New Orleans and drivers unaccustomed to ice spun their wheels across Alabama, which was brought to a near-standstill by little more than an inch of snow.

The beach in Biloxi, Mississippi, got a light coating. And the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill cancelled classes as the storm unleased at least 8 inches of snow in Durham and Greensboro. At least 12 deaths had been confirmed from the cold.

Nearly 400 百万人 were in areas under either winter warning or watch Wednesday. The National Weather Service said most of the deaths came from people driving too fast on icy roads or being caught off guard by the cold.

The states with the most deaths: North Carolina, where at least six were reported; Ohio, at least three; and Wisconsin, at least three. Arkansas said a man was killed when a pickup spun out on ice, and an 8-year-old was killed when the driver of his pickup went off a bridge and crashed into a tree in North Carolina.

The temperature was around 10 degrees below freezing throughout the day in Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi. It was below freezing as early as 6 a.m. in New Orleans, where icicles hung from a statue of jazz musician Louis Armstrong normally honored New Orleans.

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