



Thursday February 25, 2010

Opinion Poll

Should criminal charges be brought against Toyota Motor Company for safety defects that led to accidents and deaths?

- Yes
 No
 Maybe

Vote

News

Hole closes lane on I-85

By John Brasier, Editor

Recent heavy rains and snow could be the reason for a major imprint left along Interstate 85 in Hart County .

A sinkhole approximately 20 feet long by 30 feet wide and 10 feet deep resulted in one of two southbound lanes being closed Feb. 16 at mile marker 178.

The hole developed along the outside shoulder. Georgia Department of Transportation spokesperson Teri Pope said repair would begin in the afternoon of Feb. 17 and that one lane would remain closed until the repair was finished.

Pope said the closure would stretch about three-quarters of a mile, beginning about one-half mile before cars get to the sinkhole.

Pope said DOT wasn't sure what had caused the sinkhole to develop, but would investigate.

"Right now, we're focusing on getting the repair work underway," Pope said.

Pope said she wouldn't have an estimate on the time needed to make the repair until the afternoon of Feb. 17.

Hart County administrator Jon Caime said he believed disconnected concrete pipe used for storm drainage would be determined to be the cause.

"I'm pretty sure it's a pipe situation," Caime said Wednesday morning.

Caime said old concrete pipe is a common reason for sinkholes - albeit usually smaller - along Hart County roads.

"I've seen them all over Hart County," said Caime, who added he found one last week along Friendship Road. "Seventy-five percent of the time it's old concrete pipe."

The county administrator explained that when small sections of concrete pipe become disconnected, water flows around the pipes and creates a cavern that eventually caves in from weight above it. That weight is often in the form of rain and snow.

Caime said use of metal pipes for such road drainage would reduce problems.



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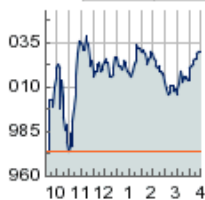
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S&P 500	1105.24
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