

# Heavy snowfall causes chaos



A lorry jack-knifed near Ringsend.



Snow scenes from the main Coleraine to Limavady road on Tuesday morning. Pic by Steven McAuley/McAuley Multimedia

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It came as quickly as it went, but last week the snow brought with it disruption and chaos.

With the worst of the weather hitting last Tues-

day afternoon, people in Swatragh got to experience a freak act of nature when thunder snow hit.

Known also as a 'winter thunderstorm', thunder snow happens when snow falls instead of rain during a thunderstorm.

Even BBC weather woman

Angie Phillips tweeted that she had never experienced thunder snow.

Meanwhile, the snow continued to cause huge traffic disruptions.

Many road users travelling on the Glenshane Pass on Tuesday were stranded due to poor driving conditions.

There was also heavy disruptions on the Belraugh Road, near Ringsend, after a lorry jack-knifed and the treacherous weather conditions caused a bus to smash the Legavallon Road, outside Dungiven. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

In Castledawson, a driver

who was forced to abandon his car on the Hillhead Road due to a tyre puncture, was forced to endure even more headaches after vandals smashed every window in the vehicle during the night.

Snow continued to fall on Tuesday night and caused further traffic delays on

Wednesday, however most of it had thawed away by Friday.

A yellow weather warning for snow this incoming week was downgraded yesterday (Monday) but temperatures are set to continue to drop, falling below zero by the weekend.

## Stormy weather leads to fallen trees and power cuts across the county

**By Brendan Marshall**  
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A man has been left badly shaken after a tree fell onto his car whilst driving through Money more on Saturday evening.

At approximately 9pm on January 26, police were informed that a tree had fallen on a car in the village.

The male driver escaped uninjured but was left badly shaken.

The incident happened on Stonard Street, the main road linking Cookstown and Money more. The police closed the road in both directions and a diversion was put in place around the village.

The road re-opened in the early hours of Sunday morning.

High winds however continued throughout the night right across Mid-Ulster causing some power outages across the district with wind gusts of up to 60mph at times.

A total of 550 homes were affected by power cuts as a result of the adverse weather while others faced disruption due to falling debris.

On Sunday morning, a spokesperson for NIE Networks said: "As a result of the high winds and adverse weather approximately 550 customers in the Mid-Ulster area experienced a power cut late last night (Saturday 26th January). All affected customers were restored in a short period of time. Approximately 40 customers lost power on Sunday morning at 8.30am but were restored again by

9.55am. NIE Networks engineers are currently on site and responding to a fault which caused loss of power to a further 50 customers at approximately 10am this morning (Sunday 27th January). It is expected power will be restored to these customers shortly. We would like to remind customers that if they do lose electricity supply they should report the fault online at [nienetworks.co.uk](http://nienetworks.co.uk) or call the NIE Networks Customer Helpline on 03457 643 643."

Meanwhile, in north Derry, the Claudy area was the worst affected with around 900 customers experiencing power cuts.

A spokesperson for NIE Networks added: "As a result of high winds and adverse weather, approxi-



The tree which fell onto a car in Money more on Saturday night.

mately 900 customers in the Claudy area experienced a loss of electricity supply on Saturday 26th January at approximately 21.10. NIE Net-

works engineers responded immediately and were able to restore 430 customers at 22.04. The remaining customers affected were restored at

06.00 the following morning. The loss of supply was due to a fault caused by storm damage to the electricity network."

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