

Early-season snow blankets Beijing, northern China

November 8 2021



A woman wearing a mask throws snow in the air during a snow fall in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

An early-season snowstorm blanketed much of northern China including

the capital Beijing, prompting highway closures and flight and train cancellations and delays.

Temperatures plunged to freezing and below as a cold front moved from west to east. A steady, blowing snow fell Sunday in Beijing, the nearby city of Tianjin and northeastern China after hitting parts of Inner Mongolia and other western regions the previous day.

The National Meteorological Center issued an orange alert for snowstorms, the second highest level in China's four-tier warning system. Accumulations of more than 30 centimeters (11 inches) were forecast in some areas.

Beijing was hit hardest Sunday morning. Several highway sections were closed, bus service was suspended on more than 160 routes and flights were reduced at the city's two [major airports](#), state media said. High-speed trains to Tianjin and Shanghai were canceled or delayed. The skies cleared in the Chinese capital in the afternoon as the storm moved farther east.

The snow was a welcome sight at the skiing venues for the Beijing Winter Olympics, which will be held in February next year. Beijing typically has a dry climate, and most of the snow for the competitions is expected to be artificial.



A child kicks up fresh snow in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A delivery man moves past a car with a blanket of fresh snow in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



Residents past by a snow covered car in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



Residents play with fresh snow in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A worker walks with a shovel as fresh snow falls in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A resident walks past a park billboard showing summer time as it snows in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A worker walks with a shovel past restaurants at a mall in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A resident takes a photo for her friend in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



Workers at a restaurant build a snowman in the shape of a pandemic first responder with a protective suit and a mask in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A worker at a restaurant reacts after completing a snowman in the shape of a pandemic first responder with protective suit and mask in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A resident past by a snow covered stone lion in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan



A security guard stands near a stone lion with a covering of snow in Beijing, China, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. An early-season snowstorm has blanketed much of northern China including the capital Beijing, prompting road closures and flight cancellations. Credit: AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

The city also said that [snow](#) from neighborhoods with COVID-19 cases would not be removed, state media reported. They did not say why, but China has adopted unusually strict measures under a zero-tolerance approach to curb the spread of the virus.

In Inner Mongolia, flights were canceled Saturday at the airport in Hohhot, the capital of the Chinese region, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Also, some expressways were temporarily shut in Hebei province, which surrounds Beijing, and farther to the west in

Shanxi province, Xinhua said.

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