

Mimi McNulty

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Snow Storm Takes Over Illinois State University

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Dr. John McHale, a professor at Illinois State University is lucky to be alive after the snowstorm that hit Bloomington-Normal yesterday afternoon at 12 p.m.

The conditions were so severe that Bloomington-Normal residents were told to stay in their homes and off the roads. Even students and staff of ISU received email and text alerts about the severe weather conditions at 1 p.m., directly after the conditions had heightened. Some listened to the alerts while others decided to brave the storm.

After the Bone Student Center on campus lost all power yesterday evening, Samantha Ross, a senior at ISU, decided to head home. On her way to her car, Samantha Ross found Dr. McHale unconscious in the snow with a large branch on top of him outside of Fell Hall at 5:30 p.m.

“I was on my way to dig out my car when I see Dr. McHale in the snow!” she said.

“I immediately rushed over to him to make sure he was okay. When I saw he was unconscious, I called 9-1-1 immediately. He was cold as ice!” Because roads were filled with cars stuck in the snow, Dr. McHale was air lifted to Bromenn Medical Center around 5:45 p.m.

Dr. McHale was not the only one who suffered through this ferocious storm. A thirteen car pileup was caused on College Avenue after students ignored the offer ISU made to students offering safe buses to ride around town. There were no casualties from the crash, but some were taken to Bromenn to get checked out along with Dr. McHale who is still being treated for frostbite and hypothermia.

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Because Normal is thought to receive 25 to 40 inches of snow and ongoing severe weather conditions, ISU will be closed for the next three days. This is the largest snow storm to hit the area since 1888.