

**GROUNDING: blizzard** FROM A1

these big drifts," Dougherty said Monday morning. "They are punching through trying to get one lane open," he said, adding they will move onto other areas and then go back to clean up the rest of the roadway.

During the height of the blizzard, MnDOT ran snow plows in tandem, Dougherty said. "They were told to stay at a safe distance with two trucks at a time," he said. "With two trucks tied up, our resources were not as effective, but safety has to prevail."

In some cases, MnDOT provided plows to make emergency escorts for area ambulances needing to get patients to hospitals.

On the side roads around Steele County, snow removal efforts were severely impeded because of all the stranded vehicles, according to Scott Golberg, county administrator. "With the stranded vehicle on the county roads, we had to work around them," he said.

Besides the motorists stranded in Owatonna, there were also some who sought shelter in Ellendale, Golberg said.

The uniqueness of this massive blizzard, Golberg said, was the drifting, which caused all the stranded motorists.

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