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SEVERE WEATHER CONDITION IN CHINA

China (especially in the North and West) is facing the worst snow storm in the last 16 years. Highways are closed, delay in trucking also causes port congestion. In addition, most workers will return to their hometown during the Chinese New Year. The situation is currently very chaotic.

Numerous cities suffered blackouts as heavy snowfalls caused power lines to snap and hampered the delivery of coal, which is used to generate most of China's electricity.

Trains are delivering less than 25 percent of normal daily coal shipments because of weather-related disruptions, Xinhua said, citing the Railway Ministry.

The Politburo of the ruling Communist Party warned at an emergency meeting on Tuesday that the bad weather would continue. "In the next few days, there will be more severe weather in some southern areas," it said in a statement. "The government departments and localities must be aware of the seriousness of the situation and be fully prepared to prevent and fight disasters."

The severe weather has caused economic losses of 22.09 billion yuan, or about \$3 billion, since it began Jan. 10, the Civil Affairs Ministry said.

Shanghai was blanketed in snow overnight, leaving city streets slick with slush. Trains and flights from the city to many destinations were delayed.

More info can be obtained from:

http://www.chinadaily.net/china/2008-01/22/content_6410236.htm

http://www.chinadaily.net/china/2008-01/20/content_6406673.htm

Best regards,

Lyman Container Line

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