
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Review

Record-breaking snow hits Spain



The Story

That came as a welcome sound to the thousand or so drivers rescued in their vehicles overnight – snow being cleared from the roads. More than 400 trunk roads are blocked. Bus services in and around the capital have been suspended for the day.

The mayor, Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida, has asked for the army to send in more soldiers to help. But he's also appealed to people to stay home. It could be that snow proves the great enforcer – movement restrictions are being imposed on 23 more zones around Madrid from Monday to combat coronavirus.

Vocabulary

blankets

covers completely with a layer of something

- Volcanoes blanket the ground with ash.
- A blanket of snow covered the entire city.

wreaks havoc

causes chaos or damage

- Trump's supporters wreaked havoc in the Capitol.
- The children's party wreaked havoc on the restaurant.
-

swathes

large areas

- Swathes of rainforest are in danger of being lost forever.
- Swathes of Europe are under coronavirus lockdown.