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CONTACT:
Paris Ervin 217.782.5025
Jae Miller 312.814.4693

IDOT REMINDS DRIVERS TO WATCH FOR STANDING WATER ON PAVEMENT

Thawing Snow Could Lead to Flooding and Dangerous Driving Conditions in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) advised motorists Friday to travel with extreme caution as rain and melting snow could lead to standing water on low-lying roads throughout the state. Standing water has been reported on several expressways in Chicago and other areas across the state. IDOT crews are working to clear storm drains and will respond to problem areas as necessary.

“The rain and melting snow can lead to standing water on roadways, which can be dangerous if not careful,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. “Our crews are working diligently to monitor the conditions to ensure safety across Illinois throughout the duration of this thaw.”

Flooding-related driving tips:

- Do not drive through flooded areas
- If a road covered by water seems shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to do so
- If your car stalls, do not attempt to push it out; seek higher ground

Other safety tips to remember:

- Don't crowd the plow – a snow plow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they may not see you.
- Allow extra time for travel during the winter months.
- Watch out for black ice on roads that appear clear but can be treacherous. Take it slow when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges and shady areas - all are prone to black ice, which is often invisible.
- Always keep your gas tank at least two-thirds full to help prevent the vehicle's fuel line from freezing.
- Do not travel during bad weather unless absolutely necessary - if you do have to make a trip, check the forecast and make sure someone is aware of your travel route.
- Always carry an emergency car care kit that contains jumper cables, flares or reflectors, windshield washer fluid, a small ice scraper, traction material, blankets, non-perishable food and a first aid kit.
- Carry a cell phone and dial *999 for roadway assistance.
- Always wear a safety belt.
- Motorists are urged to check travel conditions before any trip. You can get road condition information by calling 1-800-452-IDOT (4368), Illinois Tollway information by calling 1-800-TOLL-FYI or online at www.gettingaroundillinois.com and click on the “winter road conditions” icon.