



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Acting Secretary

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Snow to Impact Weekend Travel in Illinois *IDOT Crews Ready for Latest Round of Winter Weather*

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today that a winter storm is expected to produce measurable snowfall in Illinois tonight and Sunday, with potentially hazardous travel conditions.

The National Weather Service is forecasting up to six inches of snow in portions of central Illinois and one to three inches in other areas of the state. A wintry mix is possible in the southern part of the state. Roads will be slick and motorists should use extra caution when driving, with travel times that are longer than usual. Statewide road conditions will be updated throughout the weekend at www.gettingaroundillinois.com.

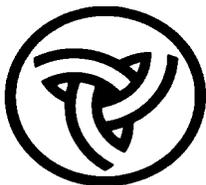
“The potential for more snow means dangerous driving conditions are possible,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “Motorists should consider if their trip is necessary before traveling in a snowstorm and make sure to give plows plenty of room. Our crews will be out throughout the storm, working hard to clear the roads for the traveling public.”

IDOT crews are pretreating bridges, overpasses, and ramps – all of these areas are prone to icing. IDOT will have available more than 1,700 trucks and 3,700 employees to respond to the elements throughout the state.

Illinois State Police urge motorists to slow down, leave extra room for braking and following, avoid sudden lane changes, and exit the road to a safe location if conditions become too hazardous.

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“Winter storms have a significant impact on traffic safety, putting lives at risk,” said Illinois State Police Col. Mike Zerbonia. “Motorists should take every precaution to safeguard themselves and those around them in traffic by following the law and being prepared for hazardous road conditions,” he stressed.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) encourages travelers to have a vehicle emergency kit that includes water, snack foods, flashlight, blanket, extra warm clothing, sand or kitty litter, shovel, windshield scraper with brush, and booster cables. More winter weather survival tips are available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

Winter driving tips to remember:

- Do not travel during bad weather unless absolutely necessary. If you have to make a trip, check the forecast and make sure someone is aware of your travel route and schedule.
- Take it slow, especially when approaching intersections, ramps, bridges and shady areas – all are prone to black ice, which can be an invisible danger during some winter storms.
- Keep your gas tank at least two-thirds full.
- Always carry an emergency car care kit containing 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 in the Chicago area for roadway assistance in case of emergency. (Reminder: Using handheld phones while driving is illegal in Illinois if it is not an emergency situation.)
- Always wear a seat belt, whether you’re sitting in the front seat or back seat. It’s the law.
- Check road conditions before traveling.
 - Road conditions are updated regularly at www.gettingaroundillinois.com. Click the Winter Road Conditions tab to see the statewide map.
 - Information is available by phone at 1-800-452-IDOT (4368) or 1-800-TOLL-FYI for Illinois Tollway travelers.
- IDOT winter driving tips video: <http://youtu.be/EwRaAtf3IEs>

