

DISTRICT OFFICES



- District 1 Office (Coeur d'Alene)
(208) 772-1200
- District 2 Office (Lewiston)
(208) 799-5090
- District 3 Office (Boise)
(208) 334-8300
- District 4 Office (Shoshone)
(208) 886-7800
- District 5 Office (Pocatello)
(208) 239-3300
- District 6 Office (Rigby)
(208) 745-7781



www.itd.idaho.gov

State of Idaho
Transportation
Department
P.O. Box 7129
Boise, Idaho 83707
(208) 334-8000

11172011 1000



Frequently Asked Questions WINTER PREPARATION



HOW DOES ITD PREPARE FOR WINTER?



CALL 

511 B4 U GO

Online or Mobile Web @ 511.idaho.gov

Which roads are we responsible to keep clear?

ITD clears and maintains more than 12,000 lane miles of highway statewide. ITD is responsible for interstate and state highways; local, city or county roads are typically maintained by those entities or highway districts.

Hundreds of maintenance employees, hundreds of pieces of equipment and huge amounts of de-icer, salt brine and salt and sand mix are devoted to road clearing each year. Many employees move over from construction to winter maintenance, then shift back in the spring.



When do we start to prepare for winter driving?

Late fall signals a change in ITD focus from road construction to winter road maintenance. In some higher elevations, crews begin anticipating snowfall and slick roads even earlier.

Many maintenance facilities switch to a winter schedule – shifting employees to help with road clearing and adopting a multi-shift schedule for thorough coverage.



How do we prepare for winter driving conditions *before* a storm hits?

Many avalanche-prone areas in the state begin daily avalanche forecasting early in November to help in predicting an upcoming winter storm. This is supplemented by coordination with the National Weather Service to anticipate changes in the weather and quickly mobilize crews.

ITD maintenance employees also practice with equipment before snow arrives. A snowplow simulator is used to train new employees across the state before they get behind the wheel.

In some areas and where feasible, crews apply de-icer to the roadway surface just ahead of a storm, to prevent the snow from bonding to the surface and creating ice. In lower temperatures, if de-icer isn't working, salt and sand are often used together to promote melting and traction.

After a storm hits, which roads do we focus on for road clearing?

Roads that carry high volumes of traffic are typically given priority treatment in road clearing. Other determining factors are crash reduction and the analysis of cost and benefit.

Intersections, ramps and potentially hazardous areas are prioritized, as is the availability of resources to devote to clearing. Mountain passes, bridges, steep grades and areas of blowing and drifting snow are especially problematic.

Predicting trouble spots is difficult, since each storm is different. Some roads are bad simply because they run through a valley or don't get enough sun to melt the snow or ice.

Depending on the winter, any roadway can be hazardous and difficult at times. Amount of snowfall, duration of the storm, traffic, altitude and many other factors can contribute to this.



511 Traveler Services - B4 U GO

For the latest road and weather conditions, call Idaho Traveler Services at 5-1-1 or toll-free at (888) IDA-ROAD (888-432-7623). For online updates, visit the website at 511.idaho.gov. Telephone and Web reports are available 24 hours a day and are updated as conditions change.

