



News Release

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Idaho Transportation Department Shares Winter Driving Tips to Keep Idahoans Safe on Snowy Roads

Idaho's iconic snow-covered landscapes are here for the season, and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is urging drivers to prepare for winter road conditions. Whether you're a seasoned winter driver or facing your first Idaho winter, being "Idaho Ready" is essential for safety.

"There is so much to love about Idaho in the snow, but drivers need to be cautious," said ITD Director Scott Stokes. "Giving driving your full attention and taking extra precautions could make all the difference this winter."

ITD's winter maintenance team works tirelessly to clear over 13,000 lane miles of highways across the state. Last winter alone, 429 plows traveled a combined 4.5 million miles. However, safe roads require effort from drivers too.

Essential Winter Driving Tips from ITD:

- **Give snowplows space:** The safest place to be is a comfortable distance behind the plow.
- **Prepare your vehicle:** Check your windshield wiper fluid, battery, and tires. Consider winter tires or chains for added traction.
- **Pack a winter emergency kit:** Include items like a first aid kit, blankets, jumper cables, tire chains, and non-perishable food.
- **Plan your trip:** Download the Idaho 511 app or visit 511.idaho.gov for real-time road conditions.
- **Drive cautiously:** Slow down, increase stopping distance, and avoid driver assistance systems like cruise control, lane-keeping, and other auto-pilot features on wet or icy roads. Remember, bridges and overpasses freeze first.
- **Stay calm if you skid:** Gently brake and turn into the skid, avoiding overcorrection.

"Idaho's winter roads can be challenging, but with preparation, attentiveness, and patience, we can all stay safe," added Stokes.

For more tips on preparing for winter driving, visit itd.idaho.gov/travel.

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