

BE PREPARED!

During winter months, use this handy checklist to make sure you're prepared every time you take a trip.

- Jack and lug wrench
- Shovel
- Bottled water
- Road maps
- Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Cell phone and car adapter
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- First aid kit
- Matches or lighter
- Battery jumper cables
- Extra food
- Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- Paper towels
- Pocket knife
- Extra washer fluid



For more information, or to request a safety presentation, please send an email to the ISP Safety Education Unit at:

ISP.Safety.Education@illinois.gov

or contact your local ISP Troop:

<https://isp.illinois.gov/Patrol/TroopMap>



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State of Illinois
Illinois State Police

Preparing for Winter Travel



Illinois State Police

TAKE YOUR TIME ...

- Check Illinois road conditions at www.gettingaroundillinois.com before you leave or call the Winter Road Conditions Hotline at 1-800-452-4368 for valuable travel information, which is continuously updated.
- Choose main routes and be rested and alert.
- Make someone aware of your routes and if your plans change, let someone know. Check in when you've reached your destination.
- Remember, cell phone coverage is not available in many remote areas.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Clear any snow, ice or frost from windows, lights, hood, heater and air inlet vents (don't forget mirrors and wipers).
- Do not drive with the heater in recirculation mode as it can increase humidity.
- Drive with your lights on and reduce your speed.



USE THESE TIPS TO PREVENT SLIPS

Adjust your driving for the conditions. If there is ice or snow on the road you must take extra precautions.

- Don't use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather.
- Position your hands on the steering wheel at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock.
- If you lose traction, gradually slow down – don't slam on the brakes!
- Steering, braking and accelerating smoothly are key to maximum vehicle control on slippery surfaces. Steer just enough to follow the path you intend (most people steer too much or too fast).
- Be ready to handle potentially dangerous situations by thinking ahead about your options, such as controlling your speed and changing lanes.
- Use extra caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways – ice forms first on these surfaces.
- Avoid driving through snowdrifts; they may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Slow down in advance of shaded areas, especially curves, where ice and snow are the last to melt.

WATCH OUT FOR SNOWPLOWS

Remember... snowplows are covered under Scott's Law, the "Move Over Law," which mandates that when approaching any emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway, you must:

- Proceed with due caution
- Change lanes if possible
- Reduce your speed



Following a snowplow too closely can be dangerous. Give them room.

DURING A WINTER STORM

IF STRANDED IN A CAR ...

Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you! Turn your hazard lights on, hang a piece of cloth or distress flag from the radio antenna or window, or display a trouble sign.

When the engine is running, open a window slightly. This will protect you from carbon monoxide. You may need to clear snow away from the car's exhaust pipe.

