

***“We’re plow drivers,
not magicians.
Please, take it slow
on ice and snow.”***



www.nebraskatransportation.org



www.511nebraska.org

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

Winter Safety Reminders

The Nebraska Department of Roads' crews are prepared for annual challenges with snow and ice, and they will be out in full force when winter weather strikes. However, there are things that motorists can do to make winter travel safer on the roadways.

- When traveling outside of a business or residential district, it is unlawful to follow a highway maintenance vehicle (snowplow, truck or grader) more closely than 100 feet when it is plowing snow, spreading salt or sand, or displaying a flashing amber or blue light. If conditions permit, however, drivers may pass a maintenance vehicle.
- Snowplows cause soft snow to swirl, making it difficult to see the plow and for the plow operator to see you. Turn on your headlights and windshield wipers for additional visibility.
- Plowing snow on a multi-lane roadway is often done in tandem (more than one snowplow at a time). Give them plenty of room. Do not pass on the right side and always stay where the operator can see you.
- Beware of icy spots, especially on bridges and in sheltered areas. Drive at reduced speeds and allow distance to react to traffic. Slow down gradually when approaching curves and stops.
- Turn off cruise control in wet or snowy weather!
- Keep headlights on, particularly during inclement weather. Make sure your headlights, taillights and windows are clean so you can see and be seen.
- Motorists may use studded snow tires in Nebraska from November 1 to April 1. School buses, emergency vehicles and mail carrier vehicles may use them anytime during the year.
- Check often for current weather reports through local media sources before you travel. Keep the radio on. Weather conditions change rapidly and so do the road conditions.
- For 24-hour-a-day, year-round Nebraska traveler information, motorists can dial 511 on their cell phone or landline. If outside Nebraska, dial 800-906-9069. 511 provides motorists current information about weather conditions, road conditions and travel advisories. The 511 system and various other weather links are available on the Internet at www.nebraskatransportation.org or www.511nebraska.org.
- Make sure everyone in a motor vehicle wears a seat belt and children are in a car safety seat.

Winter Words to Know

Winter Storm Watch - A winter storm is possible or approaching.

Winter Storm Warnings - A winter storm is imminent.

Snow Advisory - One to five inches is expected.

Blowing and Drifting Snow Advisory - Visibility can be at or below a quarter mile.

Wind Chill Advisory - Wind chills of -30 to -35 are expected.

Freezing Rain/Sleet Advisory - An accumulation of freezing rain or sleet could make exposed surfaces dangerous or cause damage.