



Safe Winter Driving Tips

ICE & SNOW... TAKE IT SLOW

Be Prepared!

Knowledge – Before leaving home, use 511 anytime to find out about the latest driving conditions for the Kansas Turnpike and any Interstate, U.S. or state highway in Kansas and Nebraska. Phone numbers for road conditions in other surrounding states are also provided on 511. 511 may also be used for en-route updates but please, for everyone's safety, don't use 511 while driving.

◆ 511 Phone

From any phone (landline or cellular), call 511 in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from any where in the U.S. (or if calling 511 doesn't work from your phone).

◆ 511 Website

Visit the 511 Travel Information Website at <http://511.ksdot.org> that provides a map that shows road condition and construction/detour information for the highways in Kansas. The site also provides links to other information, such as Closed Roads Reports, Driving Conditions Reports, weather, travel information for other states and more.

◆ 511 Mobile

Visit <http://511mm.ksdot.org> by using your mobile device (Blackberries, Smart phones, etc.) to get a list of closed roads and driving conditions on the state highway system.

Safe drivers know the weather, and their limits. If the weather is bad, remember **Ice and Snow...Take It Slow**, or just don't go.

Vehicle Preparation – clear and inspect:

- ◆ Remove any snow on your vehicle's windows, lights, brake lights and signals. Make sure you can see and be seen.
- ◆ Check your vehicle's tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts, and hoses. A breakdown is bad on a good day and dangerous on a bad-weather day.

Time – Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.

First snow or Ice – Drivers aren't prepared for winter driving and forget to take it slow. Remember to drive well below the posted speed limit and leave plenty of room between cars.

Limited visibility – Stay attentive, reduce speed and know what's going on around you.

Reduce Speed and Proceed With Caution!

- ◆ When it snows, use your head not your feet. Slow down for wet, snowy, or icy conditions; when visibility is poor; or when conditions are changing or unpredictable. Don't turn your vehicle into an 'off-road vehicle' by driving too fast for conditions.
- ◆ Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle. When accelerating on snow or ice, take it slow to avoid slipping and sliding. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal.
- ◆ Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice — a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface that may be difficult to see.
- ◆ Drivers should allow additional room between their vehicles and others. Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances. Leave extra room between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- ◆ Don't take chances when pulling out in front of approaching vehicles. Remember, they may not be able to slow down and you may not be able to accelerate as quickly as on dry pavement.
- ◆ Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of when your vehicle accelerates based on road conditions — don't let the cruise control make a bad decision for you.

Travel Safe!

Drive with extra care and attention around snowplows:

- ◆ Don't crowd the plow—give them room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.
- ◆ Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit—be patient.
- ◆ A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops or turns.

Winter Driving

Slow down for wet, snowy, icy conditions.

Avoid quick braking or acceleration.

Find out about driving conditions before you go.

Everytime - buckle up.

Turn signals, brake lights and windows need to be clear of snow.

You should never use cruise control in winter weather conditions.

