



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 29, 2018

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY LAUNCHES HOT WEATHER PATROLS TO AID CUSTOMERS DURING EXTREME HEAT**

*Road patrols bolster H.E.L.P. trucks and State Police District 15*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway’s around-the-clock Hot Weather Patrols have been activated to more rapidly locate and assist stranded customers during the dangerously high temperatures and humidity expected to continue through the weekend.

The Illinois Tollway typically operates Hot Weather Patrols whenever temperatures or heat indexes indicate conditions could be hazardous for stranded drivers. The 24-hour patrols search for drivers stranded in disabled vehicles and respond to calls that come in to \*999 motorist assistance, Illinois Tollway dispatch or Illinois State Police District 15.

“We are putting additional crews on the road this weekend to help keep our customers safe during these dangerously hot conditions,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. “Launching our Hot Weather Patrols will help us more quickly find and then assist any stranded drivers along our system so they can get out of the heat and back on their way.”

While the Illinois Tollway’s Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks sponsored by State Farm run from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, a minimum of 12 Hot Weather Patrols are providing additional coverage this weekend to augment H.E.L.P. trucks and Illinois State Police patrols.

The Hot Weather Patrols consist of crew cab trucks equipped with arrow boards for directing traffic around stranded vehicles and accommodate up to five passengers if motorists need to get out of the heat or be transported to a Tollway maintenance garage, toll plaza or Tollway oasis while service is obtained. Cars or trucks with empty fuel tanks, flat tires, batteries needing a boost, or overheated radiators are just some of the most frequent problems reported among drivers needing help.

### **Summer Travel Tips**

The Tollway offers the following travel tips to keep safe during summer weather:

- Cell phone users should **call \*999 motorist assistance** for roadway assistance and note the roadway and direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad.
- Stranded motorists should **turn on their emergency lights and remain with their vehicles** until help arrives.
- **Keep your tires properly inflated.** Driving on under-inflated tires can cause tires to overheat and increase the likelihood of a blowout, especially when road temperatures are extremely high.
- **Make sure fluids are at appropriate levels.** Most engine fluids lubricate and serve as coolants by helping carry heat away from critical components. Low fluid levels reduce the cooling effect and increase the possibility of overheating.
- **Keep an emergency kit** in your vehicle that includes water, non-perishable food items, jumper cables, a flashlight with extra batteries, road flares or an emergency beacon, basic hand tools and a first aid kit.
- **Drop It and Drive.** Using a hand-held phone while driving is illegal in Illinois.

- **Give Them Distance.** Drivers are required to slow down and move over when approaching any stopped vehicle that has its hazard lights activated.

The Illinois Tollway also reminds customers that [oases located along the Tollway system](#) serve as cooling centers and also provide drivers an opportunity to check their vehicles or simply take a break. The oases provide a variety of food, beverage and retail offerings, as well as 7-Eleven stores and fuel stations. On the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80), there are four oases: Lake Forest, O'Hare, Hinsdale and Chicago Southland Lincoln in South Holland. There is an oasis on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in DeKalb and on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Belvidere, as well as 7-Eleven stores and fuel stations at the Des Plaines Oasis also on I-90.

### **About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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