

# DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER

GET **WINTER  
READY**



*Illinois  
Tollway*



# Need for Extra Caution

What are some of the dangers to driving in winter weather?

[Illinois State Police warn of worsening road conditions](#)

- Quad Cities Times

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[Slick roads trigger numerous accidents in Winnebago and Boone counties](#)

- Rockford Register Star

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[Heavy Snow Making For Treacherous Morning Commute; 'Not A Good Time To Be Out On The Roads'](#)

- CBS Chicago

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[Latest winter storm makes travel on I-55 and I-64 icy and dangerous](#)

- Fox 2 St. Louis

# Need for Extra Caution

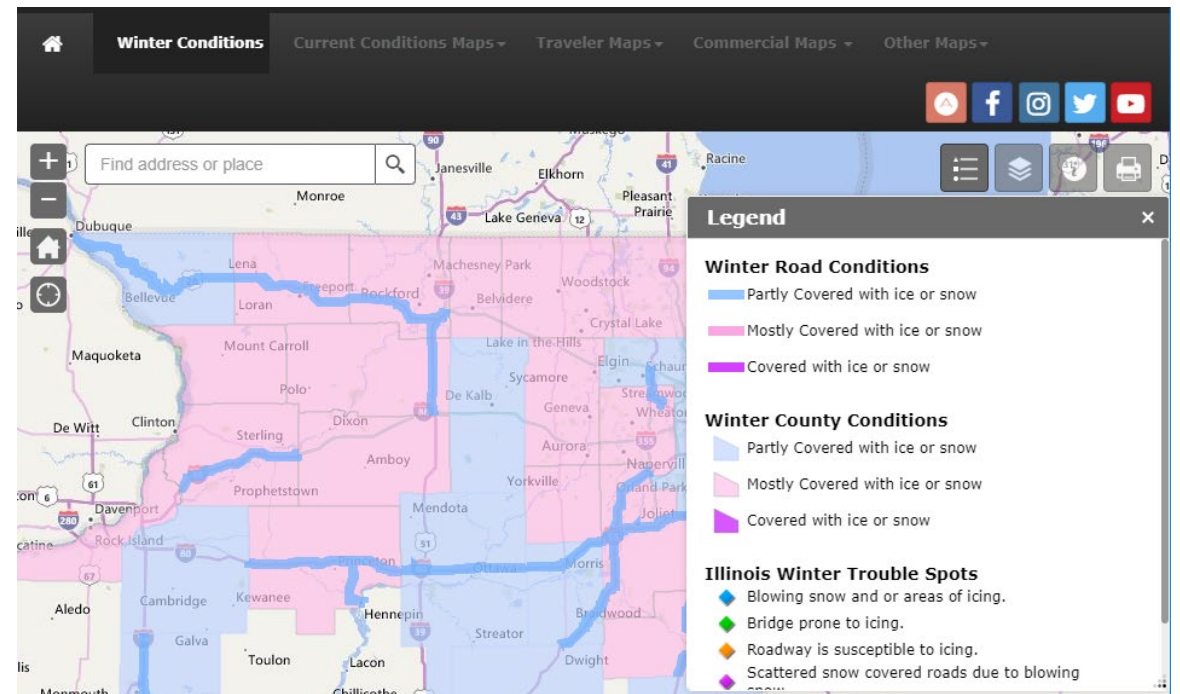


- **FHWA: Snow and ice affect road conditions and increase crash risk**
  - Average speeds decline by 30-40%
  - More than **192,000 people injured** in winter weather-related crashes each year
  - More than **2,200 people killed** in winter weather-related crashes each year
- **Illinois weather can change by the minute —you need to be prepared**

# Understanding Road Conditions

Where would *you* look for real-time road conditions and weather updates?

- Monitor conditions before driving during winter weather
- Use trusted forecasting sources
- Avoid driving during severe weather

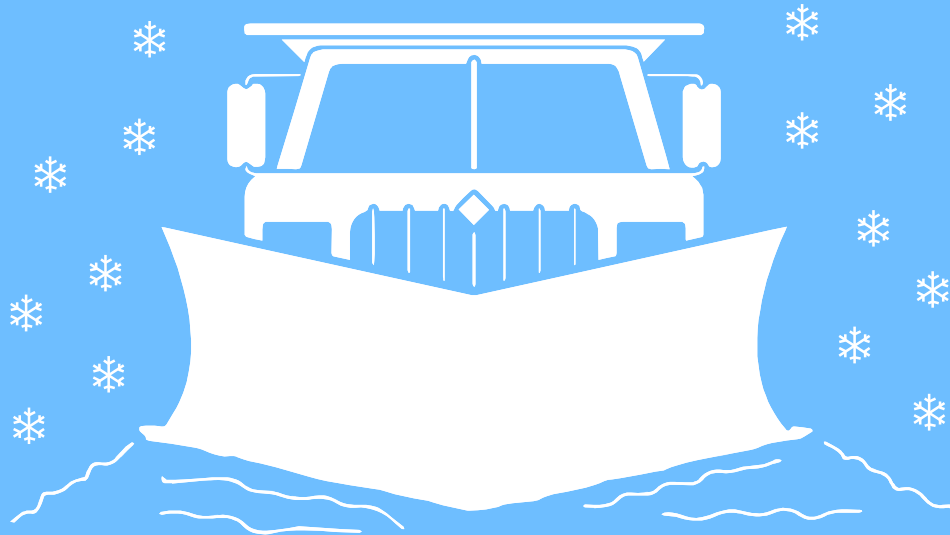


[www.gettingaroundillinois.com/WinterConditions](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com/WinterConditions)



# Driving with Snowplows

Why is it important to give snowplows extra room and to never attempt to pass them?



## When driving with snowplows:

- Stay clear of snowplow path, blades extend several feet from the equipment
- Conditions in front of snowplows are usually much worse
- Snowplow drivers have a reduced field of vision during operations
- Do not attempt to pass and maintain a safe distance

# Driving with Snowplows



**During tandem plow operations, drivers should:**

- Remain patient
- Do not attempt to pass a tandem operation
- Maintain a safe distance from all plows

**Always Remember:**

- Tandem operations are used only for extreme conditions ahead
- Passing a tandem operation puts you and other motorists in danger

# Driving in Hazardous Conditions



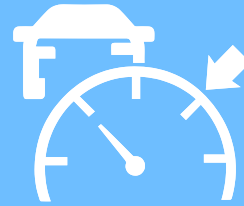
**Wear your seatbelt**



**Slow down, maintain a safe stopping distance**



**Minimize lane-changing maneuvers**



**Avoid using cruise control**



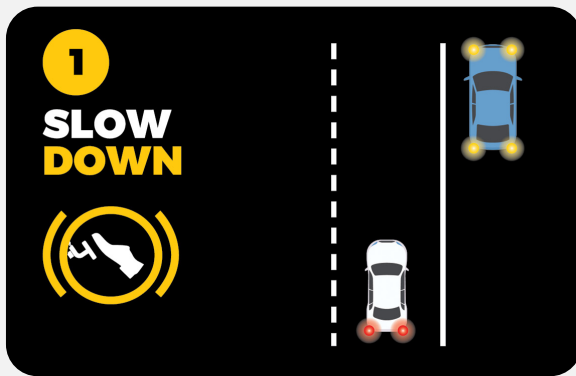
**Beware of icy pavement, especially on ramps, bridges and Toll Plazas**



**Avoid distractions, such as cell phone use**



# GIVE THEM DISTANCE



## What is Scott's Law?

Scott's Law is Illinois' "Move Over" Law. It requires drivers to **slow down** and **change lanes** safely when approaching **ANY** vehicle on the side of the road with its hazard lights on.



ROADWAY WORKERS



EVERYDAY DRIVERS



EMERGENCY PERSONNEL





# GIVE THEM DISTANCE

## Remembering Scott's Law in Winter Weather



More cars on the side of the road in need of assistance



More emergency vehicles responding to accidents and helping drivers

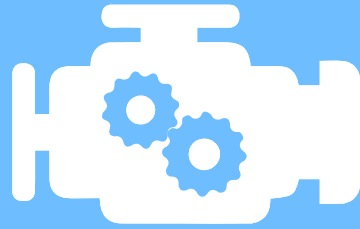


Dangerous road conditions mean you need to be extra cautious

# During an Emergency



Remain safely in vehicle



Keep engine running



Dial emergency number  
or roadside service:

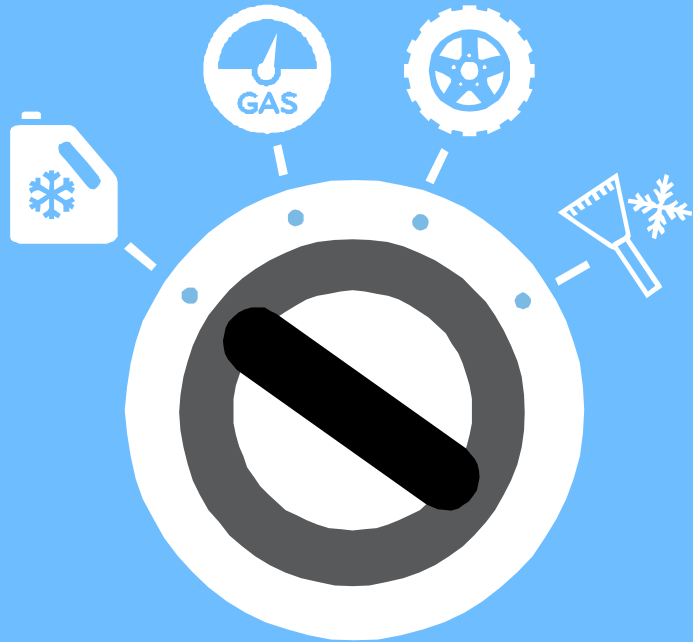
- 911
- \*999



What if you don't  
have cell service?

# Before Your Trip:

Steps for maintaining your vehicle



Top off fluids, including windshield washer fluid

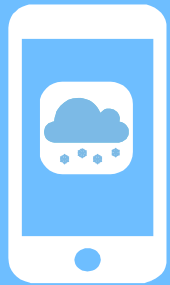
Have over half a tank of gas

Ensure tires are properly inflated and have sufficient treads

Clear snow and ice from your vehicle

# Before Your Trip:

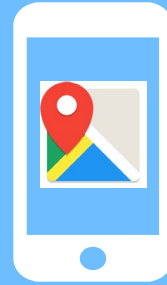
Planning your trip



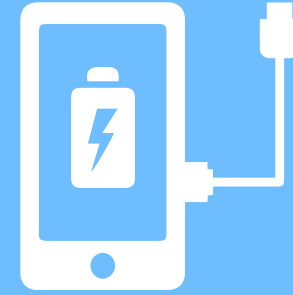
Check weather and road conditions before leaving



Give yourself extra time



Familiarize yourself with directions



Charge your cell phone



Inform others of your route and planned arrival time



# Before Your Trip:

Packing an emergency kit

## What items would *you* pack to help keep yourself safe in an emergency?



Jumper Cables



Flares/Reflectors



Flashlights & Batteries



Windshield Washer Fluid



Ice Scraper



Traction Material  
(Sand or Cat Litter)



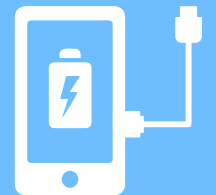
Blankets



Water & Non-Perishable Food



First-Aid Kit & Medicine



Cell Phone Charger

# Key Takeaways



- **Plan ahead**
  - Check forecast and road conditions
  - Make sure your car is in good working order
  - Pack an emergency kit
- **Slow and steady wins the race**
  - Reduce your speed and allow extra time to brake
  - Stay clear of snowplows and do not attempt to pass
- **Know when to stay off the roads**
  - Use your best judgment, and when in doubt, stay home

# Resources



- [Illinois Tollway](#)
- [Illinois State Police](#)
- [Getting Around Illinois](#)
- Trusted local news sources
- Visit local government website and social media