



**State of Illinois**  
Pat Quinn, Governor

**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
Gary Hannig, Secretary

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***IDOT, Tollway, and ISP Announce Winter Preparations  
and Urge Drivers To Stress Safety Message:  
“Ice and Snow – Take it Slow”***

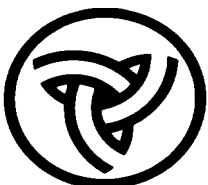
**SPRINGFIELD** - Illinois transportation and law enforcement officials today urged motorists to start preparing themselves and their vehicles for winter driving conditions. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Illinois Tollway crews and Illinois State Police (ISP) are making final preparations to get the state's frontline winter teams and equipment ready for emergency operations for the upcoming snow and ice season.

“IDOT has a proven track record of effective, timely snow and ice removals from our roadways and this year will be no different,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig. “Winter weather will be here soon enough, so it's important for motorists to get ready now because Illinois weather can become dangerous in a matter of minutes. We want to assure every Illinois driver that safety is our first priority.”

IDOT also stressed the department's commitment to the continued use of salt conservation practices even with prices of the commodity coming down from last year.

Snowbelt states have experienced two harsh winters in a row and most states, including Illinois, have used more than twice the average annual tonnage of salt in both winters.

During the 2009-2010 winter season, more than 3,900 employees and 1900 pieces of equipment will be deployed as needed by IDOT to keep state routes clear and passable. Last year, the agency spent \$82.3 million on snow removal, spreading 488,300 tons of salt and logging 836,000 labor hours.

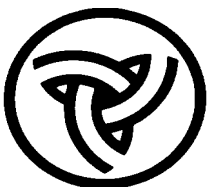


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For years, ISP and IDOT have worked together to urge motorists to drive defensively in winter weather.

"The winter season can produce rapidly changing weather patterns and unfavorable conditions. Snow and ice covered roads can significantly impede the flow of traffic, increase traffic congestion, and create adverse driving conditions. If motorists must drive in these conditions, they should plan ahead and allow sufficient time for travel," said ISP Director Jonathon E. Monken. "The Illinois State Police reminds motorists to travel at safe speeds, maintain a safe distance from other vehicles, and use properly fastened seatbelts or child safety seats. In addition to driving safely, motorists should ensure their vehicles are properly maintained, and be prepared with updated supplies in their emergency car care kit in the event a vehicle becomes disabled."

Director Monken also reminded motorists that Troopers will be enforcing Scott's Law, or the "Move Over Law," which requires drivers to yield to moving emergency vehicles, including highway maintenance vehicles, displaying oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights. Additionally, a driver is required to change lanes, if safe to do so, or reduce speed and proceed with caution when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying flashing warning lights.



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