

DRIVE SAFELY DURING WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather is incredibly important for the watershed in our area. It also allows us to enjoy various winter recreational activities. While winter weather is both fun and important, it can also be hazardous for everyday travel. Driving in winter weather conditions is a part of life in Idaho, but even the most experienced motorists can be challenged by rain, snow, or ice. Below, please see the following statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding winter-related vehicle accidents as well as some ways [Shift-Idaho](#) says will prepare you for winter travel.

WINTER-RELATED VEHICLE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

The United States Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration (FHA) provides the following statistics regarding winter-related vehicle accidents:

- Each year in the United States, around 24 percent of weather-related vehicle accidents occur on snowy, slushy or icy pavement and 15 percent happen during snowfall or sleet.
- Each year in the United States, there are more than 116,800 people injured and more than 1,300 people killed in vehicle accidents on snowy, slushy, or icy pavement.
- Additionally, each year in the United States, there are nearly 76,000 people injured and almost 900 people killed in vehicle accidents during snowfall or sleet (FHA 2023).

References

FHA (2023). Snow and Ice. Retrieved from: [Link to Site](#)
Shift-Idaho.org (2024). Winter Safety. Retrieved from: [Link to Site](#)

Stay off the Road, if Possible

Snow and ice make it difficult and, in some cases, impossible to drive on the roadways. If it's not essential for you to drive during hazardous conditions, then why risk it? Consider staying home, if possible, to help those who must drive have a safer commute with fewer drivers on the roads (Shift-Idaho, 2024).

Check Idaho 511

Checking the weather and road reports before you leave will help you know what to expect and make changes to your plans if needed. To get the latest road reports in Idaho, visit the Idaho 511 website: <https://511.idaho.gov/#:Alerts>. You can also download the Idaho 511 app from the app store (Shift-Idaho, 2024).

Slow Down

Snowy and icy weather produce slippery roadways. As a general guideline, when these conditions are present, SLOW DOWN and provide more space than usual between you and the car in front of you. Don't be overconfident (Shift-Idaho, 2024). Ice and snow don't care how well you think you can drive.

Don't Crowd the Plow

Snowplows are vitally important for the safety of our community during winter weather events. Be sure to give them plenty of room to clear the roads. The safest place is always behind the plow. Never pass a plow on the right side, which is where their wing plow extends up to 10ft (Shift-Idaho, 2024).

