**December 2018**

**Winter Weather Driving Woes**

Snow provides us a great amount of winter recreational activities, but 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. According to the Department of Transportation, there are approximately 1.2 million weather-related vehicle crashes every year. Here are some winter driving safety tips to remember before the next snowfall.

**Prepare Before You Go**

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides winter travel preparedness tips to make your trip safer. Make sure you have a winter emergency kit in your care before you leave. Items to include are mobile phone, charger, batteries, blankets, flashlight, first-aid kit, non-perishable food, water, sand or cat litter for traction, small shovel, and battery jumper cables. Check your vehicle to make sure it is in good working condition. Check the battery, wipers, tires, and other systems that are affected by cold temperatures. Make sure your tires have good tread to drive in adverse winter conditions.

**Don’t Crowd the Plow**

Snow plows take up an entire lane in order to properly clear the lane of snow. The safest spot is to drive behind the plow at least 4 car lengths behind it. This enables the plow driver to see you and to prevent any damage to your car from sand and other material the plow is spreading. Make sure you watch for the wing on the side of the plow if it has one. To learn more, visit the NWS website: [www.weather.gov/wrn/winter_safety](http://www.weather.gov/wrn/winter_safety).