

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

ADA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECEMBER 2018



## Check Road Reports With Idaho 511

Checking the weather and road reports before you leave will help you know what to expect and make travel plan changes if needed. To get the latest major road reports in Idaho, visit the Idaho 511 website. You can also download the Idaho 511 app from the App Store and Google Play: [511.idaho.gov](http://511.idaho.gov).

## 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)

## WINTER DRIVING WHILE ON THE ROAD

**Don't crowd the plow.**  
The road behind an active plow is safer to drive on. Give them plenty of room to work and only pass when it is safe to do so.



### Change the way you drive.

Drive slower than normal and leave more room between you and surrounding vehicles when roads are wet, snowy or icy. DO NOT use cruise control, brake quickly or take sharp turns.



### Stay alert.

Make sure you keep your gas tank over half full and keep a close eye on road conditions, which can change rapidly. On road trips, take breaks often so you can stay focused on the road.



Ada County Emergency Management  
7200 Barrister Drive ♦ Boise, ID. 83704 ♦ (208) 577-4750 ♦ FAX (208) 577-4759  
HOME PAGE: [www.adaprep.id.gov](http://www.adaprep.id.gov) ♦ E-MAIL: [mjeffries@adaweb.net](mailto:mjeffries@adaweb.net)

