

The Best Safety Equipment is Between Your Ears

Blowing snow, compacted snow, ice and black ice can challenge even the most highly-skilled drivers during the winter in North Dakota. However, the common-sense factors that influence the severity of crashes in warmer seasons also have a significant impact on the number and severity of crashes in the winter.

REMEMBER TO:

- **Slow down** – observe speed limits and match your speed to road conditions.
- **Never utilize cruise control on slippery roads.**
- **ABS Brakes** – apply a steady firm pressure on brake pedal.
- **Use safety equipment** – if you're in a crash and you are using seat belts and other safety equipment, you are 11 times more likely to survive.
- **Stay sober** – drugs and alcohol dramatically increase your odds of having a fatal crash.
- **Stay awake** – fatigue and falling asleep at the wheel are significant risks.
- **Don't Crowd the Plow** – stay well back and never drive through "white-outs."
- **Stay with your vehicle** – if you become stranded, it is safer to stay with your vehicle than it is to walk for help.

Contact

Up-to-date road conditions online at:

www.dot.nd.gov/travel-info/

Weather for trip planning online at:

nddot.meridian-enviro.com/public/

NDHP online at:

www.nd.gov/ndhp/contact.html
ndhpinfo@nd.gov

WINTER DRIVING



Developed for the North Dakota Highway Patrol by the Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center, a program of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, NDSU.



Weather / Road Information – Dial 511

Equipment

- Tires – make sure suitable for winter driving
- Exhaust – leak free
- Lights – make sure all lighting equipment is working; turn lights on when visibility is reduced
- Windshield wipers – need to be working properly
- Heater and defroster
- Battery – properly maintained
- Fuel system – keep fuel tank full



Emergency Supplies

- Cell phone
- Shovel
- Tire chains
- Booster cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Windshield scraper
- Bright red or orange cloth
- Flashlight
- Sleeping bag or blankets/layered clothing
- 50 ft. nylon cord
- 3 lb. coffee can
- Candle and matches
- Drinking water and high energy food

The Trip

- Check road report
- Plan your route
 - Let someone know your trip plan
 - Don't deviate
- Stay alert
- Maintain a slow and steady speed
- Don't have wheels turned to the left while waiting at a traffic light to make a left turn
- If caught in a blizzard stay in your vehicle
- If stranded, attempt to park your vehicle facing into the wind
- Keep tailpipe clear of snow

Emergency Number

In case of an emergency:

Dial 911