



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMDOT provides cold/winter weather driving tips

SANTA FE – Parts of New Mexico are already experiencing freezing temperatures, high winds, snow, sleet, rain, and ice which may cause hazardous driving conditions.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation monitors the weather continuously and is prepared to work around the clock spreading salt and cinder and plowing the roads if necessary.

In coordination with law enforcement, the NMDOT has some advice for drivers when traveling during inclement weather.

- **Be prepared before you go:** Make sure you have plenty of fuel and adequate windshield washer fluid and antifreeze. Check the inflation on your tires and remove snow from your vehicle, including headlights and taillights. Keep a flashlight, phone charger, sand or kitty litter, blanket, first aid supplies, water, and snacks in the vehicle.
- **Plan ahead:** Check the forecast and the latest road conditions by calling 511 or visiting <http://nmroads.com>. Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination and expect delays.
- **Wear your seatbelt:** Make sure everyone in the vehicle is properly restrained.
- **Take it slow:** The best crash prevention on snow and ice is to SLOW DOWN.
- **No cruise control:** Never use cruise control when the roads are slick. It can reduce your control of the vehicle if your tires begin to skid or slip.
- **Brake carefully:** It takes more time to stop in adverse conditions and stopping too quickly can cause drivers to lose control of the vehicle.
- **Use caution on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas:** these areas typically freeze first and take longer to thaw.
- **Don't crowd the plow or other drivers:** Allow plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front of you. It requires up ten times the distance to stop in snowy and icy weather. Keep at least a 50 foot or five car length distance between you and a snow.

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NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

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