



MEDIA RELEASE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2009

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Ohio Department of Public Safety Reminds Motorist in *Ice and Snow... Take it Slow*

Columbus, OH – As Ohioans awake to icy and snowy conditions, the Department of Public Safety urges extreme caution and common sense as slick roads cause additional delays and accidents on the Wednesday morning commute to work.

“Safety is our top priority,” says Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán.

“It is important that motorists use caution while on the roads. ODOT’s messages certainly ring clear during mornings like this one, share the road responsibly, respect snowplows on the highways, and remember, in Ice and Snow... Take it Slow.”

Be aware of sleet, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and the dense fog, which can make driving very hazardous.

Be aware of weather warning signs for icy road conditions. Any type of precipitation that falls when temperatures are close to or below freezing is a warning that icy road conditions can develop. And any type of precipitation during winter months, whether it’s snow, sleet, rain or light drizzle, can make roads and driving conditions hazardous.

1. **Allow for extra time.** Rushing is a distraction and causes high speed. Plan your commute to include delays.
2. **Take it slow!** Driving high speeds makes it easy to lose control on ice and snow. Slowing down helps to avoid accidents.
3. **Wear your seat belt.** It is a state law to wear seatbelts. Wearing seatbelts during winter driving is most crucial. An alarming number of icy road fatalities have occurred because vehicle occupants were not buckled up.
4. **Pay attention to the weather.** Make the weather forecast part of your daily routine during the winter. Awareness of weather conditions will help you to be more prepared.
5. **Go easy on the brakes.** Brake application is a common trigger of slides that result in a loss of vehicle control. Antilock brakes (ABS) do not work well on ice and will often lock up the wheels. If your vehicle has ABS, be sure

to STOMP. Firmly depress the brake pedal. STAY on the brakes – do not pump the brakes. STEER where you want the vehicle to go.

6. **Turn into a slide.** Turn your wheels in the direction that the rear of your car is sliding.

Remember, bridges and overpasses become slick and icy before roadways do. Bridges and overpasses can be 5 to 6 degrees colder than the roads, so drive with extreme caution when the temperature is near freezing.

Whether your vehicle has 18 wheels or four, ODOT and ODPS reminds you that excessive speed continues to be one of the biggest factors for crashes in ice and snow. Drivers who don't remember to take it slow in ice and snow are six times more likely to get into a crash, compared to non-winter weather driving. Log on to www.buckeyetraffic.org for up to date road closures and detours.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is proud to serve and protect the safety and security of Ohioans.

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