

## State of Illinois Bruce Rauner, Governor



## **Illinois Department of Transportation**

Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Snow Expected to Impact Travel in Illinois this Weekend**

Be Prepared for Hazardous Driving Conditions in Some Areas

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today that snow is expected in parts of Illinois from late afternoon today, through Saturday afternoon. The National Weather Service is forecasting approximately 10 inches of snow in portions of northern and northwestern Illinois, and measurable amounts throughout the northern half of the state.

The heavy snowfall likely will create hazardous driving conditions. Roads will be slick and travel times potentially will be significantly longer than usual. Motorists should monitor the forecast and consider adjusting travel plans in areas where a large amount of snow is expected.

"When it's snowing, you should ask yourself if your trip is necessary before heading out," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. "If you have to travel, don't crowd the plow. We will be working throughout the storm, so please give our crews plenty of room."

IDOT crews are pretreating bridges and ramps, as these locations are prone to icing.

"Every year, motorists face weather conditions that have a significant impact on transportation and passenger safety. Whether it's a semi-truck or a motor vehicle, every safety precaution should be taken to ensure that crashes are avoided and roads are safe," said Illinois State Police Colonel Tad Williams. "Reducing your speed, increasing distances between vehicles, avoid unnecessary lane changes, and allowing for extra travel time, are just a few simple precautions drivers can take to make commutes safer."

If you have to travel during winter weather:

- Make sure your gas tank is full.
- Keep a cell phone, warm clothes, blankets, food, water, a first aid kit, washer fluid, and an ice scraper in your vehicle.
- Visit https://youtu.be/qHU\_4Jq8PKY for additional tips in our winter driving video.

IDOT will update statewide road conditions throughout the weekend at www.gettingaroundillinois.com. We also will share travel information on Facebook and Twitter.