

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

George N. Campbell, Commissioner

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Contact:

Bill Boynton
Public Information Office
(603) 271-6495



Some Reminders When Driving in Winter Weather Conditions

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has the following reminders for motorists encountering difficult winter driving conditions:

- When it snows, use your head not your feet. SLOW DOWN in snowy or icy situations; when visibility is poor; or when conditions are unpredictable.
- Don't get overconfident with four-wheel drive. It won't help you stop any faster.
- Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle.
- Drivers should allow additional room between their vehicles and others. Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.
- Don't crowd the plow. A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you. Give them the space they need to do their jobs.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice - a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface that may be difficult to see.
- Don't take chances when pulling out in front of approaching vehicles. Remember, they may not be able to slow down and you may not be able to accelerate as quickly as on dry pavement.
- Look farther ahead in traffic. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra time to react.
- Drive with your headlights on. Make sure your vehicle is free of snow and ice.
- Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions.
- Make sure your windshield wash tank is full.
- Stay home if possible during severe winter conditions. It's the safest option and allows snowplows to clean up faster.

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