

News Release

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

WisDOT State Traffic Operations Center

414-227-2142

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Contact Phone: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/about/locate/sp/offices.htm>

Travel not advised in Wisconsin as storm moves through state

Location: HEAVY SNOW, MIXED PRECIPITATION AND HIGH WINDS EXPECTED TO IMPACT TRAVEL

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation along with the State Patrol is advising motorists who must travel today to stay aware of changing weather conditions that could lead to hazardous travel. Heavy snow, freezing rain, sleet, and ice are expected in many parts of Wisconsin throughout the day. It is possible that roadways - including segments of the Interstate Highway System and other freeways - could become impassable during the day on Sunday. Travelers and truckers encountering impassable roads could become stranded, and should closely monitor weather conditions - avoiding trips if at all possible.

The National Weather Service has issued Winter Storm Warnings in many counties in the state until mid-day Monday. Motorists who must travel are advised to monitor weather and road conditions before leaving.

To check on the latest winter road conditions, call 5-1-1 or view this information on the Web at 511wi.gov. Dial 911 only for emergency situations.

Leave at least 500 feet of distance between your vehicle and a snowplow or salt truck.

Make sure your gas tank is full and you have some food, warm blankets and clothing in the vehicle in case of emergency. If you have a cell phone, make sure its fully charged and working.

Tell others about your travel route and itinerary, so that if you dont arrive at your destination, they can contact law enforcement officers and inform them where to look.

Keep others informed if youre going to be late or encounter problems so they wont worry needlessly.

Its safer to travel with passengers and convoy with other vehicles than it is to drive alone.

Remember, the speed limit is based on clear roads and dry pavement dont drive too fast for conditions.

Watch for slippery spots on bridges and overpasses.

Take note of mileposts, exit numbers or crossroads in case you slide off the road or are involved in a crash so that law enforcement officers and tow truck operators can find you.

If the storm makes driving too hazardous or if your car breaks down, stay in the vehicle. Run your engine and heater for short intervals to stay warm. Be sure to crack the window to avoid carbon monoxide build-up.

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Traveler information is available on the Internet at www.511wi.gov or by calling 511.