

# Dept. of Transportation: Urges caution during upcoming winter storm

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A strong winter storm system is expected to move through Wisconsin this weekend, bringing significant snowfall and heavy winds to areas across the state. Road conditions and visibility will vary greatly depending on location over the next few days. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) urges people to consider altering or delaying their travel plans, stay weather aware, and if you must travel “know before you go” with 511 Wisconsin.

Drivers should plan ahead and visit [511wi.gov](http://511wi.gov) or use the [511 Wisconsin app](#) to monitor winter road conditions and view live videos from traffic cameras along their route. WisDOT uses real-time, calculated data to indicate current road conditions across the state, including normal, partially covered, completely covered and travel not advised.

The National Weather Service forecasts periods of widespread heavy snow across Wisconsin, with varying impacts depending on location. The potential for strong winds, coupled with the new snowfall, could cause blowing and drifting snow across roadways resulting in reduced visibility and whiteout conditions. Sustained winds can make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles like trucks, which are at risk of losing control or tipping over in windy conditions. Drivers should be aware when traveling near larger vehicles and keep a safe distance.

Snowplow crews and emergency responders across Wisconsin are preparing for potentially hazardous conditions on the roads throughout the duration of the storm.

**If you must travel, take these precautions:**

- Check [511wi.gov](http://511wi.gov) or via the [511 Wisconsin app](#) for road conditions or incidents along your route.
- Clear snow and ice from your vehicle's windows, front and rear lights, roof and hood.
- Fill the gas tank, have a fully charged phone and an [emergency kit in your vehicle](#).
- Alert others about your route and expected travel time.
- Buckle up and put your phone down while driving. Every trip, every time.
- Snow means *slow*.
  - Allow extra travel time, following distance, and reduce your speed during winter conditions.
  - Be cautious on bridges, overpasses, and entrance and exit ramps.
  - Don't be overconfident in four-wheel or all-wheel-drive vehicles. All vehicles require additional time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
  - Avoid using cruise control in winter conditions.
- Stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow. Make sure that you can see the plow's mirrors to ensure the driver can see you.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and snowplows. Move over or slow down for emergency vehicles and disabled vehicles.
- In case of a crash or slide off, stay in the vehicle, turn on the hazards, call 911 and move vehicle(s) out of traffic if possible.

### **For motor carriers**

Trucking companies and their drivers are strongly encouraged to review their schedules and routes, and plan accordingly. Commercial motor vehicle drivers should check [511wi.gov](http://511wi.gov) before departure and throughout their trips for current travel impacts and advisories. Oversize/Overweight vehicle drivers are reminded their permits restrict operations during inclement weather.