



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2023

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR WEEKEND SNOWFALL

Drivers reminded to be alert for varied road conditions, reduce speed, keep safe distance from plows

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is mobilizing its full fleet of 196 snowplows in response to a winter snowstorm moving into the area Saturday and continuing overnight into Sunday. Varied roadway conditions are anticipated across the 12-county Illinois Tollway system and could affect drivers in some areas during their weekend travels. The Tollway’s Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency’s systemwide response to the storm.

“We’ll be working to keep our customers safe during this storm. Our fleet of plows will operate continuously until our roads are clear of snow and ice and our roadway team will rapidly responding to any drivers who need assistance on our system,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse. “Safety is always our highest priority, so we urge our customers to help us protect them by slowing down during winter storms and increasing their distance from other vehicles, particularly plows and emergency responders.”

Drivers whose vehicles become disabled should activate their hazard lights and dial *999 from a cellphone for assistance. Drivers should note the roadway they are using, as well as the direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad. For crashes involving property damage only, drivers should continue driving and report the incident to Illinois State Police Troop 15 at 630-241-6800 ext. 5042.

To respond to this weather event, the Illinois Tollway has a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors working per shift to ensure that roadways are kept clear of snow and ice. If necessary, the Tollway can operate its full complement of plows around the clock to remove snow and ice from its roads.

Drivers can receive real-time information on pavement conditions and roadway incidents by signing up for Tollway Trip Tweets at twitter.com from the Tollway’s website at illinoistollway.com. Tweeters can follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them. The five are: @94_294_Tollway, @I_90_Tollway, @I_88_Tollway, @I_355_Tollway and @IL_390_Tollway.

The Illinois Tollway reminds motorists the state’s “Move Over Law” **requires** motorists to change lanes or to slow down and proceed with caution when passing any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard lights activated.

Drivers also should use caution when passing snowplows. During heavy snowfall, snowplows often work in tandem to remove as much ice, slush and snow as possible from all lanes at once. When it is safe to pass, the plows spread out and allow traffic to flow around them.

Winter Weather Travel Tips

The Tollway offers the following travel tips to keep safe during dangerously cold weather:

- **Be sure your cell phone is fully charged** before heading out.

- **Be sure tires are properly inflated** during cold weather. Tires lose a pound of pressure for every 10 degrees the temperature drops.
- **Keep your gas tank at least half full** to avoid gas line freeze-up and ensure that you have extra to account for additional driving time if the weather is unfavorable.
- **Keep a cold weather safety kit** in your car that includes gloves, boots, blankets, road flares, water and a flashlight with fresh batteries.
- Stranded motorists should **turn on their emergency lights and remain in their vehicles** until help arrives.
- Cell phone users should **call *999 motorist assistance** for roadway assistance and note the roadway and direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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