



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED TO CLEAR ROADS AND ASSIST DRIVERS DURING WINTER WEATHER

*Motorists asked to slow down, increase their distance from other vehicles and dial *999 for roadside assistance*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is reminding drivers to slow down and allow extra time for their Friday commutes and overnight trips as a winter storm moves through Northern Illinois, possibly bringing sleet, freezing rain and snow early Friday morning before tailing off, then likely resuming in the evening and continuing intermittently into Saturday morning.

The Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 196 plows to keep its roads clear and customers safe as they travel on the 294-mile Tollway system.

Customers who become stranded or require aid while traveling on the Tollway should dial *999 for roadside assistance and remain in their vehicles until help arrives.

“We’ll be plowing and spreading de-icing materials throughout this storm to clear our roads of snow and ice to keep our customers safe as they travel on our system,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “We’re urging drivers to help us protect them during this storm by slowing down, increasing their distance from other vehicles and, if they need roadside assistance, by dialing *999 and remaining inside their vehicles until help arrives. Any time drivers have to stop along our roads, they should stay inside their vehicles, where they are much safer and better protected than they would be if they exit their vehicles and put themselves in danger of encountering fast-moving traffic.”

The Tollway’s Snow Operations Center will be open to manage the agency’s systemwide response to the storm, which could affect drivers at times on the Tollway system by reducing visibility and creating variable pavement conditions. The Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors working per shift to remove snow and ice from its roads.

Before traveling, to receive real-time information on pavement conditions and roadway incidents, drivers should sign up for Tollway Trip Tweets via X on the Tollway’s website illinoistollway.com. Drivers may follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them.

While traveling, drivers whose vehicles become disabled or need other aid should activate their hazard lights and dial *999 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 complete an Illinois State Police crash report online at <https://isp.illinois.gov/CrashReports/CrashReportDisclaimer>.

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, or approaching any emergency vehicle that has its flashing lights on and is still moving.

Drivers also should use caution when passing snowplows, which often work in tandem and travel slower than posted speed limits.

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Winter Weather Travel Tips

The Tollway offers the following travel tips to keep safe during winter storms or cold weather:

1. **Be sure your cellphone is fully charged** before heading out.
2. **Be sure tires are properly inflated** during cold weather. Tires lose a pound of pressure for every 10 degrees the temperature drops.
3. **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.
4. **Keep a cold weather safety kit** in your car that includes gloves, boots, blankets, road flares, water and a flashlight with fresh batteries.
5. Stranded motorists should **call *999 for motorist assistance, turn on their emergency lights and remain in their vehicles** until help arrives.
6. **Put away handheld cellphones** and focus on driving safely—using them behind the wheel is dangerous and illegal..

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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