

F or Y our D riving



Tips for Driving on Black Ice

Black ice thrives in areas where there isn't much direct sunlight, such as in tunnels or on tree-lined residential roads. Bridges, overpasses and the roadway beneath overpasses tend to form ice patches quickly. If pavement looks darker or more reflective than usual, you may be driving on black ice.

If you encounter black ice on a roadway, resist that immediate reflex to act fast, and regain control. The best thing is to do nothing. If you're currently braking when you hit the ice, stop braking; if you're accelerating, lift your foot completely off the throttle, and keep your steering wheel fixed in its current position. Normally ice patches on the road do not exceed 20 feet, so try coasting in your desired direction.

One of the most important preventive measures during freezing or near-freezing conditions is to drive more slowly. Always maintain a safe following distance, and try to anticipate hazards ahead such as traffic stops, traffic congestion, and stopping at intersections. Take your time. Driving slow and steady will get you there safely. Listed below are some additional safe driving tips that will help you this winter:

- ❖ Buckle up before you start driving. Keep your seat belt buckled at all times.
- ❖ **SLOW DOWN!** - Posted speed limits are for ideal travel conditions. Driving at reduced speeds is the best precautionary measure against any misfortune while driving on slippery roads.
- ❖ Steer with smooth and precise movements. Changing lanes too quickly and jerky steering while braking or accelerating can cause skidding.
- ❖ Stay in the right-hand lane except when passing, and use turn signals when changing lanes.
- ❖ Be patient and pass other vehicles only when it is safe to do so.
- ❖ If driving conditions become severe, consider getting off the road before getting stranded.

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Send comments or questions to:

isrisafety@isri.org

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