



PLAYBOOK FOR WINTER STORMS IN TEXAS



Texas Winter Storm Events Snow • Ice • Freezing Rain



How TxDOT Responds to Winter Storm Events

TxDOT's first priority is always the safety of the traveling public.

- Supervisors continually monitor weather and road conditions, traffic cameras, road sensors, hotlines, and management reports.
- Maintenance crews move supplies and manpower where most needed
- Personnel and equipment adjustments are made as needed.
- Crews spread sand and anti-icing or de-icing materials along assigned routes.
- Work continues 24/7 to keep roadways passable.
- Public Information Officers work with the media (newspapers, radio, TV) and through social media networks (Twitter, Facebook, Youtube) to get road conditions information out to the public.
- Road conditions are updated on TxDOT's Web site.



Winter Storm Treatments

Anti-icing

Brine is primarily sprayed on bridges and overpasses before a storm to help prevent a hard bond of ice, reduce snow buildup, and to speed snow and ice breakup.

De-icing

Salt pellets are mixed with sand to help remove thick layers of ice already on the road.

Anti-Skid

Sand is applied to improve traction either along or in conjunction with a de-icing agent.





Priority Treatment Strategy

TxDOT's mission is to keep roadways open. Roads are prioritized and crews work to address them in the order listed

Type of Roads

Interstates
US Highways
State Highways
Farm-to-Market Roads

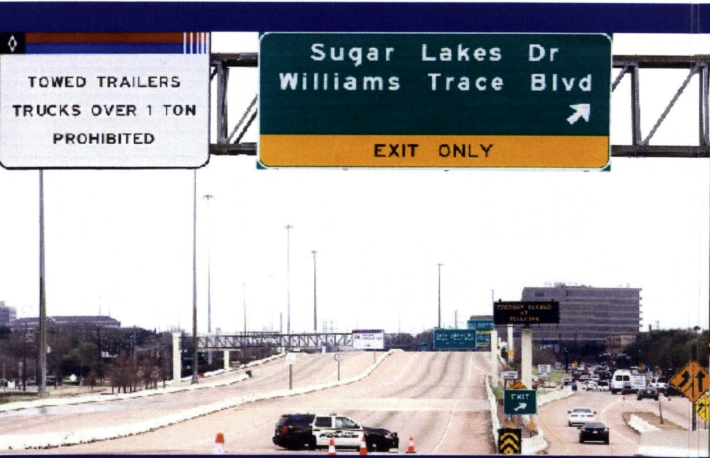
Type of Road Structures

Bridges
Overpasses
High traffic interchanges
High traffic intersections

Local authorities are responsible for city and county roads.

Roadway Closures

To ensure the safety of the traveling public, TxDOT works in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement officials to close sections of state roadways when necessary during winter storm events.



How You Can Prepare

Winter Survival Checklist

Keep the following items in your vehicle

- Blankets and Warm Clothes
- Shovel and Scraper
- Flashlight and Batteries
- Lighter and Matches
- First-Aid Kit
- Booster Cables
- Chain/Tow Strap
- Non-Perishable Food and Water

Auto Safety Checklist

Check and maintain these vehicle components

- Ignition
- Battery
- Headlights and Taillights
- Brakes
- Tires
- Wiper Blades
- Antifreeze Level
- Fuel Level
- Exhaust Systems
- Heater/Defroster

Winter Weather Driving Tips

Unless absolutely necessary, avoid driving during winter storms if possible

- Remove snow and ice from your vehicle before you drive and make sure the headlights and taillights are visible.
- Use caution when driving due to the variations in weather conditions (snow, black ice, etc.) throughout the state of Texas.
- Accelerate slowly.
- Increase your following distance.
- Brake gently using slow, steady strokes to see how much traction you have and begin braking early when approaching stops or intersections.
- Approach bridges, shaded spots, overpasses, and turns slowly
- Never use cruise control in winter driving conditions.
- Use non-freezing windshield washer liquid.
- Use snow tires and/or chains (as needed).
- If stranded, call the Texas Department of Public Safety's stranded motorist hotline toll free number (800) 525-5555.

Driving Behind Winter Weather Equipment

- Never drive through a snow cloud or whiteout conditions. You can't be sure if such conditions are caused by crosswinds or by a snowplow, so be patient.
- Watch for snowplows and other winter weather equipment on interstate ramps and "authorized vehicle only" turnarounds.
- Drive slowly and be cautious when driving near winter weather equipment (snowplows, spreaders, graders, etc.).

For More Information

Texas roadway conditions are available by calling the Texas Road Condition and Travel Information Line at (800) 452-9292 and for current road conditions: www.txdot.gov/travel/road_conditions.htm

Find out more at: www.txdot.gov

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/txdot

Follow us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/txdot

Check us out on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/user/TxDOTpio