



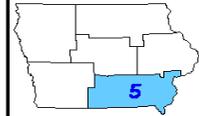
Iowa Department of Transportation

Winter Quick Facts  
Statewide and District 5  
Fiscal Year 2011

Statewide



District 5



<b>Roadway Responsibilities</b>		
9,393	Centerline Miles of Roadway (ramps not included)	1,623
24,867	Lane miles of Roadway Miles of roadway times the number of lanes	4,182
3,975	Lane miles of Interstate (includes ramps)	310
4,120	Number of Bridges (Includes state park bridges)	608
<b>Equipment</b>		
901	Snow removal trucks Each snow removal vehicle is equipped with a plow, deicing material spreader, liquid deicer prewetting system, and most vehicles are also equipped with a wing or underbody plow.	142
53	Motor graders	8
134	Endloaders	22
11	Heavy-duty, self-propelled snow blowers Heavy-duty snow blowers are dispatched throughout the state as needed and not used exclusively by a single location.	0
30	Medium-duty snow blower attachments for endloaders or tractors	0
34	Light-duty snow blower attachments for tractors	
<b>Workforce and Facilities</b>		
1,044	Permanent employees Includes mechanics, supervisors, garage office assistants, equipment operator seniors, highway technician associates, and highway technicians	143
53	Supervisors	8
109	Garages	18
213,193	Salt permanent storage capacity (tons)	30,593
<b>Materials Use (FY06-10 Average)</b>		
231,810	Rock salt (tons)	33,358
14,363,234	Liquid salt brine (gallons)	5,079,179
95,597	Liquid calcium chloride (gallons)	28,026
2,430	Calcium chloride flake (tons)	302
32,547	Sand (tons)	2,910
<b>Financial</b>		
\$38 million	Average annual winter operations budget	
<b>Roadway Weather Information Systems</b>		
62 3 mini's 4 portables	Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) RWIS sites are full service weather stations along the roadside that provide atmospheric and pavement specific weather information.	10
<b>Climate Data</b>		
31.7	Average snowfall (inches) (20 year average - FY1991-2010)	26.6
52.0	Average winter season precipitation days (20 year average - FY1991-2010) A precipitation day is any day in which .01" of liquid precipitation is received	54.1
23.3	Average number of snow events (20 year average - FY1991-2010)	19.2

## Winter Driving Tips

### General Winter Driving Tips

- \* Check the weather forecast and road conditions before embarking on a trip. Check your local media, call the road condition number, or go on-line for information on the Internet. If conditions are expected to be less than ideal, you may want to postpone a discretionary trip or use more caution if the trip cannot be delayed.
- \* Always maintain a reasonable speed and safe following distance from the vehicle in front of you. Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances and reduced visibility.
- \* Drive below the posted speed limit when road conditions are less than ideal – speed limits are intended for normal pavement conditions.
- \* Turn on lights to see and be seen. Keep head and tail lights clear of snow.
- \* Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of when your car accelerates based on road conditions – don't let the cruise control make a bad decision for you.
- \* If your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes, understand how to use them and what to expect when the anti-lock feature is activated.
- \* Don't drive through "white out" conditions. Be patient, wait it out and travel safely.
- \* Be aware that ramps, bridges and overpasses may occasionally freeze before other roadway segments.

### Winter Driving Tips when Meeting or Overtaking a Snowplow

- \* When overtaking a snowplow, be aware that snowplows often travel only 5-35 mph. When you spot a snowplow ahead, slow down to allow for any difference in speed.
- \* Snowplows may need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranded vehicles. Maintain a safe following distance and be prepared to stop, if necessary.
- \* Be cautious if you see an area of blowing snow – it could conceal a snowplow.
- \* If you must pass a snowplow, be sure that you have clear vision ahead before passing. Allow plenty of room when passing a snowplow, and don't cut in too quickly. The blade extends several feet in front of the truck. On two lane roads, operators will pull over periodically to let following vehicles pass.
- \* On multi-lane roads, watch for plows operating in the left lane.
- \* Don't travel beside a snowplow. When encountering a large drift or packed snow, the impact can move the truck sideways.
- \* Don't attempt to pass a snowplow when visibility is severely reduced.
- \* Never pass a snowplow on the right. Many snowplows are equipped with a blade that extends to the right. This "wing blade" may be hidden by snow and difficult to see.
- \* Move as far away from the centerline of the pavement as you safely can when meeting a snow plow on a two-lane road.
- \* When two or more snowplows are working together to clear a multi-lane road, do not attempt to pass.

## Travel Preparedness

- \* Before winter strikes, make sure your vehicle is in good working order. Tires should be in good condition for maximum traction. Pack a winter survival kit to keep in your vehicle.
- \* Keep your windshield washer full and have good wiper blades so that you can keep the windshield clear.
- \* Keep plenty of fuel in the tank. You never know when you may be delayed or stranded.

### Winter Road Conditions

**Iowa .....511**  
(If calling from out of state or from a phone system not participating in the 511 program, call 800-288-1047)

**Illinois .....800-452-4368**  
**Minnesota.....800-542-0220**  
**Missouri.....800-222-6400**  
**Nebraska .....402-471-4533**  
**South Dakota .....866-697-3511**  
**Wisconsin .....800-762-3947**

### Web Sites

[www.dotweatherview.com](http://www.dotweatherview.com)  
Iowa weather conditions  
[www.511ia.org](http://www.511ia.org) or  
[www.iowaroadconditions.org](http://www.iowaroadconditions.org)  
Iowa's Road Condition Report  
(brought to you by the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Department of Transportation)  
[www.dot.state.ia.us](http://www.dot.state.ia.us)  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
<http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/ia/ia.html>  
National Weather Service for Iowa

### Winter Survival Kit

Booster cables	Extra clothing - cap, mittens	Sand or strips of carpet for traction
Blankets and/or sleeping bags	parka and overshoes	Flashlight and extra batteries
Candles and matches	High-calorie, nonperishable food	First-aid kit
Snow shovel and ice scraper	like candy and canned nuts	Bottled water