

**Winter Quick Facts**  
**Statewide and District**  
**Fiscal Year 2011**

| Statewide                                  |  | District 1 | District 2      | District 3                | District 4 | District 5                 | District 6   |
|--|--|------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Roadway Responsibilities</b>            |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| 9,393                                      | <b>Centerline Miles of Roadway</b> (ramps not included)  | 1,563      | 1,620           | 1,674                     | 1,487      | 1,623                      | 1,426        |
| 24,867                                     | <b>Lane miles of Roadway</b><br>Miles of roadway times the number of lanes   | 4,635      | 4,014           | 3,970                     | 3,792      | 4,182                      | 4,274        |
| 3,975                                      | <b>Lane miles of Interstate</b> (includes ramps)   | 1,005      | 355             | 276                       | 1,105      | 310                        | 924          |
| 4,120                                      | <b>Number of Bridges</b> (Includes state park bridges)   | 800        | 629             | 611                       | 661        | 608                        | 811          |
| <b>Equipment</b>                           |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| 901  | <b>Snow removal trucks</b><br>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.                        | 162        | 150             | 146                       | 130        | 142                        | 171          |
| 53   | <b>Motor graders</b>   | 8          | 11              | 9                         | 9          | 8                          | 8            |
| 134  | <b>Endloaders</b>  | 20         | 22              | 27                        | 23         | 22                         | 20           |
| 11   | <b>Heavy-duty, self-propelled snow blowers</b><br>Heavy-duty snow blowers are dispatched throughout the state as needed and not used exclusively by a single location.   | 1          | 5               | 4                         | 0          | 0                          | 1            |
| 30   | <b>Medium-duty snow blower attachments for endloaders or tractors</b>  | 4          | 7               | 11                        | 4          | 0                          | 4            |
| 34   | <b>Light-duty snow blower attachments for tractors</b>   | 7          | 7               | 3                         | 0          | 7                          | 10           |
| <b>Workforce and Facilities</b>            |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| 1,044                                      | <b>Permanent employees</b><br>Includes mechanics, supervisors, garage office assistants, equipment operator seniors, highway technician associates, highway technicians  | 218        | 158             | 151                       | 178        | 143                        | 196          |
| 53   | <b>Supervisors</b>   | 11         | 8               | 8                         | 8          | 8                          | 10           |
| 109  | <b>Garages</b>   | 17         | 17              | 23                        | 18         | 18                         | 16           |
| 213,193                                    | <b>Salt permanent storage capacity (tons)</b>  | 36,400     | 31,300          | 33,150                    | 36,350     | 30,593                     | 45,400       |
| <b>Materials Use (FY06-10 Average)</b>     |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| 231,810                                    | <b>Rock salt (tons)</b>  | 44,473     | 32,192          | 27,728                    | 43,238     | 33,358                     | 50,821       |
| 14,363,234                                 | <b>Liquid salt brine (gallons)</b>   | 2,330,880  | 1,956,710       | 544,532                   | 1,096,927  | 5,079,179                  | 3,355,006    |
| 95,597                                     | <b>Liquid calcium chloride (gallons)</b>   | 1,292      | 78              | 361                       | 64,241     | 28,026                     | 1,599        |
| 2,430                                      | <b>Calcium chloride flake (tons)</b>   | 491        | 1,331           | 0                         | 106        | 302                        | 200          |
| 32,547                                     | <b>Sand (tons)</b>   | 4,757      | 8,705           | 2,754                     | 2,366      | 2,910                      | 11,055       |
| <b>Financial</b>                           |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| \$38 million                               | <b>Average annual winter operations budget</b>   |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| <b>Roadway Weather Information Systems</b> |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| 62<br>3 mini's<br>4 portables              | <b>Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS)</b><br>RWIS sites are full service weather stations along the roadside that provide atmospheric and pavement specific weather information, such as the temperature of the pavement surface. | 13         | 7<br>1 portable | 9<br>1 mini<br>2 portable | 9          | 10<br>1 mini<br>1 portable | 14<br>1 mini |
| <b>Climate Data</b>                        |  |            |                 |                           |            |                            |              |
| 31.7                                       | <b>Average snowfall (inches) (20 year average - FY 1991-2010)</b>  | 32.0       | 37.7            | 34.2                      | 27.8       | 26.6                       | 31.9         |
| 52.0                                       | <b>Average winter season precipitation days (20year average - FY 1991-2010)</b><br>A precipitation day is any day in which .01" of liquid precipitation is received  | 54.1       | 53.6            | 46.5                      | 47.1       | 54.1                       | 56.4         |
| 23.3                                       | <b>Average number of snow events (20 year average - FY1991-2010)</b>   | 24.1       | 28.7            | 25.2                      | 18.5       | 19.2                       | 24.3         |

## 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                         |