



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

<b>Roadway Responsibilities</b>	
<b>9,393</b>	<b>Centerline Miles of Roadway</b> (ramps not included)
<b>24,867</b>	<b>Lane miles of Roadway</b> Miles of roadway times the number of lanes
<b>3,975</b>	<b>Lane miles of Interstate</b> (includes ramps)
<b>4,120</b>	<b>Number of Bridges</b> (Includes state park bridges)
<b>Equipment</b>	
<b>901</b>	<b>Snow removal trucks</b> 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.
<b>53</b>	<b>Motor graders</b>
<b>134</b>	<b>Endloaders</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Heavy-duty, self-propelled snow blowers</b> Heavy-duty snow blowers are dispatched throughout the state as needed and not used exclusively by a single location.
<b>30</b>	<b>Medium-duty snow blower attachments for endloaders or tractors</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Light-duty snow blower attachments for tractors</b>
<b>Workforce and Facilities</b>	
<b>1,030</b>	<b>Permanent employees</b> Includes mechanics, supervisors, garage office assistants, equipment operator seniors, highway technician associates, highway technicians
<b>54</b>	<b>Supervisors</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Garages</b>
<b>213,193</b>	<b>Salt permanent storage capacity (tons)</b>
<b>Materials Use (FY06-10 Average)</b>	
<b>231,810</b>	<b>Rock salt (tons)</b>
<b>14,363,234</b>	<b>Liquid salt brine (gallons)</b>
<b>95,597</b>	<b>Liquid calcium chloride (gallons)</b>
<b>2,430</b>	<b>Calcium chloride flake (tons)</b>
<b>32,547</b>	<b>Sand (tons)</b>
<b>Financial</b>	
<b>\$38 million</b>	<b>Average annual winter operations budget</b>
<b>Roadway Weather Information Systems</b>	
<b>62</b>	<b>Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS)</b> 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.
<b>Climate Data</b>	
<b>31.7</b>	<b>Average snowfall (inches) (19 year average - FY1991-2009)</b>
<b>52.0</b>	<b>Average winter season precipitation days (19 year average - FY1991-2009)</b> A precipitation day is any day in which .01" of liquid precipitation is received
<b>23.3</b>	<b>Average number of snow events (19 year average - FY1991-2009)</b>

## 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