



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PROVIDES H.E.L.P. FOR DRIVERS IN NEED
OF ROADWAY ASSISTANCE THIS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Tollway anticipates 9 million vehicles traveling systemwide

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Plenty of drivers will be traveling on the Illinois Tollway during the Thanksgiving weekend, but stranded or disabled drivers can easily obtain roadside assistance 24 hours a day by dialing *999.

The Tollway anticipates more than 9 million vehicles will travel on the Tollway system this Thanksgiving weekend from Wednesday, November 22, through Monday, November 27. The heaviest travel is expected on Wednesday, November 22, when more than 1.8 million vehicles are projected to use the 294-mile Tollway system. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

“We are committed to responding quickly to customers whose cars become disabled on our system, so they can get back on the road and safely resume their Thanksgiving travels,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “Calling *999 makes it easy for drivers to obtain the help they need, even during the busy holiday weekend when more drivers are on the road.”

At least 12 Tollway Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks patrol the Tollway system Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. If needed, because of Thanksgiving holiday traffic conditions, H.E.L.P. trucks will be extended to midnight from Wednesday, November 22, through Friday, November 24.

In addition, Tollway motorist aid patrols and Illinois State Police District 15 will be available to provide additional roadside assistance and enhance safety when H.E.L.P. trucks are not in service.

Tollway H.E.L.P. trucks and motorist aid patrols provide an array of services including changing tires, battery boosts, adding coolant, dispensing fuel, transporting customers, moving vehicles away from traffic and incidents and calling for tow truck assistance. While small fees may be charged to cover the cost of fuel and coolant, H.E.L.P. truck services provided to customers free of charge and gratuities are strictly prohibited.

The H.E.L.P. Program is partially funded by State Farm to further the Tollway’s efforts to reduce delay and improve safety for the motoring public and highlighting State Farm’s commitment to helping people recover from the unexpected. Drivers do not need to be State Farm customers to receive service from Illinois Tollway H.E.L.P. trucks.

Holiday Work Zones

To accommodate increased Thanksgiving holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers. Most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Wednesday, November 22, through 9 a.m. on Monday, November 27. Some work may continue outside of the roadway or behind barriers to keep work on schedule.

Illinois State Police District 15 Out in Force

The Illinois State Police District 15 will be out in full force throughout the Illinois Tollway system during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Special enforcement details focused on speeding, distracted driving, seatbelt use and alcohol-related violations will be the focus to help keep motorists safe.

Illinois State Police District 15 also reminds motorists that the “Move Over Law” requires motorists to change lanes when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with emergency lights activated. This law also applies to any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard lights activated. If changing lanes is not safe or possible, motorists are required to slow down and proceed with caution. When drivers see flashing lights ahead, they should move over or slow down.

Drop It and Drive

Drivers are reminded to Drop It and Drive. It is illegal to use a hand-held device when driving in Illinois. Some form of driver distraction involving a cellphone was responsible for more than 7,000 crashes in Illinois from 2011 to 2016. Forty-three of these crashes were fatal. Drivers who need to use their cellphone on the way to their destinations can stop by any of the Safe Phone Zones sponsored by Geico located at Tollway oases.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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