



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR FREEZING RAIN AND ICY CONDITIONS

Drivers urged to slow down and allow extra time for commutes

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is mobilizing its full fleet of 196 plows to spread salt and other de-icing materials in advance of freezing rain and sleet expected to begin today and continue through Wednesday, possibly creating icy conditions in some areas that could affect drivers during their evening and morning commutes. The Tollway's Snow Operations Center will be open to manage the agency's systemwide response.

"Our trucks are spreading salt and salt brine ahead of this storm to help prevent ice from forming, particularly on areas prone to freezing, including elevated ramps and bridges," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. "We're reminding drivers to please slow down, increase their distance from the vehicles in front of them and be alert for icy patches that could develop as the storm moves through the area."

Drivers can receive the latest updates on pavement conditions during the storm, along with information about delays and roadway incidents, by viewing the tweets for each Tollway. The tweets describe conditions for each roadway based on milepost markers, which allows the Tollway to customize its tweets for specific portions of its roadways to provide the most accurate information to drivers.

The roadway reports will be updated frequently during the storm as pavement conditions change to better assist customers in planning their trips.

Drivers can receive real-time information on pavement conditions and roadway incidents by signing up for Tollway Trip Tweets at twitter.com from the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com. Tweeters can follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them.

The five are: @94_294_Tollway, @I_90_Tollway, @I_88_Tollway, @I_355_Tollway and @IL_390_Tollway.

The Illinois Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors per shift to ensure that roadways are kept clear of ice. To help improve ice removal and traffic flow, the Tollway has cancelled all temporary lane closures until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Drivers whose vehicles become disabled should activate their hazard lights and dial *999 from a cellphone for assistance from Illinois State Police District 15. Drivers will be asked to note the roadway they are using, as well as the direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad. For crashes involving property damage only, drivers should report the incident to 630-241-6800 ext. 5042 and continue driving.

The Tollway and other Illinois transportation and safety agencies also have launched the Give Them Distance campaign to remind drivers to slow down and change lanes safely when they see any stopped vehicle with flashing emergency or hazard lights. Drivers can visit www.GiveThemDistance.com for more information on this safe-driving initiative.

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 interstate tollways 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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