

# Winter Travel Tips

Prepare vehicles for cold temperatures and winter conditions: check fluids, wipers, belts, hoses, headlights, brake lights, batteries, and tires.

- \* Drive with headlights on, day and night.
- \* Turn cruise control off on wet, icy, or snow covered roads.
- \* Expect icy conditions on bridge decks and shaded spots.
- \* Slow down and drive at a speed appropriate for conditions, especially in poor visibility.
- \* Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- \* Maintain a safe distance behind other vehicles.
- \* Insist everyone in the vehicle is buckled up.
- \* Pack a winter survival kit and get a copy of the Montana Survival Guide at [mdt.mt.gov/travinfo](http://mdt.mt.gov/travinfo)



# Know Before You Go!

MDT's Traveler Information provides road conditions, construction information, road closures, chain requirements, incidents, and other detailed information. Download our mobile app **MDT 511** or visit our website at **511mt.net**.



One life lost on Montana roads is too many. Help us make Vision Zero a reality!

**Drive Sober. Buckle Up. Just Drive.**



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Department of Transportation

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# WINTER DRIVING



IN MONTANA



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Department of Transportation

## Driving Around Snowplows

Every winter vehicles collide with snowplows.

Drivers often overestimate the speed plows are traveling and do not allow time to slow down.

Some drivers take chances and drive through the snow cloud created by the plow, striking the wing plow extending to the right or left side of the truck or hitting a second plow truck working ahead of the truck being passed.

Other drivers even attempt to drive through the snow berm created by the plow truck.

These collisions are **dangerous** and **costly**. The plow truck and operator are taken out of service, passenger vehicles are damaged, and vehicle occupants may be seriously injured or killed.



***Be Patient! Snowplows generally operate at slow speeds to properly clear snow and spread sanding materials.***

- \* When approaching a snowplow from the rear, reduce speed immediately.
- \* When approaching an oncoming plow, don't crowd the centerline.
- \* The plow operators know the road well and will pull over as soon as it is safe to do so.

## Tow Plows



The Tow Plow is a steerable trailer-mounted plow that is pulled behind a plow truck. The Tow Plow can be rotated to one side of the truck, which doubles the plow width. The 26-foot-wide plow gives the operator the ability to move snow from two lanes of roadway in one pass.

***Don't try to pass the Tow Plow.*** The operator will periodically rotate the Tow Plow back in line with the truck to allow vehicles to pass.

## Tandem Plowing



MDT crews often work in tandem to pull snow from the median and other areas to reduce snow accumulation and avoid thaw/freezing ice conditions.

The first plow clears the left shoulder or median of the road, pushing snow into the driving lane. The middle plow follows to the side and pushes snow to the right where the third plow pushes the snow off the roadway.

***When approaching a snow cloud caused by a plow truck, slow down and back off.***

That cloud may obscure the wing plow extending to the left or right of the truck. The snow cloud may also obscure other plows working in tandem.

