



Today we are going to talk about winter safety and how everyone can stay safe while traveling. Then we will participate in a special contest put on by the Idaho Transportation Department, which keeps highways and interstates safe and open for travel.

## Highways during winter

- Highways are important so people can get where they need to go like school and work when they need to
- Ensure people have access to goods like groceries
- Quick access for police, ambulance and fire
- Goal to keep roads snow-free most of the time during a storm



**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



You may not have thought about it, but you probably drive, walk or bike somewhere every day. Highways are important so people like you can get where you need to go, when you need to go.

Highways are also used to transport things like groceries that we need every day. They make sure first responders can get to emergencies quickly so they can help people. With all that in mind, there are many agencies like the Idaho Transportation Department that work hard to keep roads safe and snow-free in the winter during storms by using snowplows.

## Name a snowplow

- Learn about how plows keep everyone safe and what you can do as soon-to-be drivers
- Offer a name to help you remember your safe driving tips and possibly get naming rights for a plow in your area
- Two will be named in your region this year
- Names due by Oct. 31
- Winners announced by the end of the year



**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



This year our classroom has been invited to learn about how to be safe around plows as they keep our roads clear of snow.

Then we'll get to pick a name as a group so that everyone remembers to be safe on the road.

Of all the names submitted by classrooms like ours, only two will be picked and given to plows in our area.

We'll pick our name by the end of the month, and we'll hear back by the end of the year if our name was chosen.

## Plowing by the numbers

- Winter maintenance means plowing
- Plowing pushes snow off the road
- In Idaho, there are 425 plows in use on highways and interstates
- 511 is an app to help you stay up to date on road conditions



**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



Drivers use trucks with plows to keep snow off the road. There are more than 425 plows in Idaho keeping highways and interstates snow-free. Even with that many plows, it's hard to keep up during big storms, so you can also use the app 511 to know when roads are covered in snow or even closed.

EM1

# Idaho 511



Idaho 511 is a resource that provides real-time traffic updates, road conditions and alerts to help travelers plan their routes safely.

You can use the system three different ways by:

- Calling 511 from anywhere within Idaho
- Visiting the website at [511.idaho.gov](http://511.idaho.gov)
- Downloading the Idaho 511 app to any smart device

**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



511 is a resource that is available 24/7 for travelers to learn about traffic and road conditions, as well as receive alerts, so people can plan for safe trips. It's an app you can download, a website you can visit and a phone number you can call. There are cameras all across the state so you can actually see in real time what conditions are like. Conditions are updated at all hours of the day and night.

## Slide 5

---

**EM1** I would add the 511 bullets that Heather created for the SNOW group.  
What is it?

Idaho 511 is an app that provides real-time traffic updates, road conditions, and alerts to help drivers plan their routes safely.

You can use the system 3 different ways by:

calling 511 from anywhere within Idaho

Visiting the website at <http://511.idaho.gov/>

Downloading the Idaho 511 app to any smart device

Ellen Mattila, 2024-08-23T14:14:18.622

**EM1 0** [@Megan Jahns]

Ellen Mattila, 2024-08-23T14:14:39.185

**SB1 1** A pic of the app thumbnail in the App Store would be helpful on this slide 😊

Sky Buffat, 2024-08-30T15:55:55.394

**MJ1 2** Good idea! Added.

Megan Jahns, 2024-08-30T17:11:13.449



## TOP 10 WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- 1 Check the road conditions before traveling. Visit [511.idaho.gov](http://511.idaho.gov) or download the Idaho 511 app
- 2 Be prepared. Keep a winter emergency kit in your car with food/water, etc.
- 3 When roads are wet or icy, slow down and give yourself more stopping distance. Remember, bridges and overpasses are the first to freeze when temperatures drop
- 4 Turn off cruise control if roads are slick
- 5 If you do slide, stay calm, brake very gently, and turn your wheel in the direction of the skid. Try not to overcorrect
- 6 Keep your windshield completely clear of snow and ice. Fill up on windshield washer fluid too
- 7 Learn how to use tire chains and carry them with you
- 8 Let someone know your travel plans, especially if you'll be driving through areas with no cell service
- 9 Give our snowplow drivers room to work. Never pass a snowplow on the right! The safest place is behind the plow
- 10 Buckle up, stay engaged behind the wheel, and drive for the conditions this winter

Are you **IDAHO READY** to drive safely? For more information visit: [itd.idaho.gov/travel](http://itd.idaho.gov/travel)

**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



Checking 511 is the #1 top tip for traveling safely in the winter.

You should also have an emergency kit in your car in case you get stuck – we'll talk about that more on the next slide.

In winter, roads can be wet or icy, so it's important to remember to slow down so you have more distance to stop if needed. Remember, bridges and overpasses are the first to get icy. Don't use cruise control if roads are slick.

If you do slide, stay calm, brake very gently and turn your wheel in the direction of the skid. Try not to overcorrect.

To make sure you can see, clear your windshield completely of snow and ice. Make sure you have enough washer fluid too.

Learn how to use chains and carry them with you.

Let someone know of your travel plans, especially if you'll be driving through areas without cell service.

Give snowplow drivers room to work. We'll go over in more detail what this means.

Like always, wear your seatbelt, put away distractions so you can be engaged and drive for conditions.



Here are some suggested items to keep in your car: flashlight, first aid kit, a small shovel, jumper cables, ice scraper, flares, kitty litter, extra winter clothing and boots, water and snacks, extra gas, plenty of windshield washer fluid, phone charger, tire chains and a blanket.



## Challenges for drivers

Being a plow driver isn't easy.

Most people think the scariest thing about the job is the weather, but sharing the road with other drivers can be scary too.

Plow drivers, like everyone, want to get home safely to their families.



**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



Once you start driving and see plows, it's important to know what it's like to drive these big machines.

Most people think the scariest thing about being a plow driver is the weather, but sharing the road with other drivers can be scary too, especially when they're looking at their phones instead of the road or driving too fast.

Just like you, plow drivers want to get home safely to their families – let's talk about what to do, and what not to do, around plows when we see them on the road.



Stay behind the plow - the road is always nicer (and safer) when the snow has been pushed off.



Don't crowd the plow! Give them room to work.

If you're approaching a plow like the red car, don't hog the center line – scoot over so the plow can clear the middle of the road too.

If you're following a plow like the green car, stay back so you have time to stop if you need to.



Here's another reason to not hog the center line. Plows take up the entire lane, with the front plow measuring at 12 feet wide. Also notice the wing plow on the side of the truck that is 10 feet long. These plows need space to get the job done!



Again, here's that wing plow, but from behind, how you normally see it. While the wing plow will have lights and flags to remind you it's there, it's can be hard to see during storms as the snow gets pushed up and over the blade. This is why you don't pass on the right – if you do, there's a good chance you'll run into the wing plow on the right side and possibly get hurt.



Even though you can't see them, the people in the plows are just like you. Help them get home safely by remembering all of these tips and sharing them with others.

## Putting it all together



**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



Play the 25-second video to summarize all the tips.  
<https://youtu.be/Ya0YH0q5Z9Y>

## Let's pick a name

- Let's have fun and name a plow so others remember how to be safe around them
- Names limited to 15 characters
- One per classroom
- Submissions due by Oct. 31 - use the QR code!
- Winners announced by the end of the year



*SAFELY NAVIGATE OUR WINTER*

**Your Safety • Your Mobility • Your Economic Opportunity**



Now that we know how to be safe around plows, let's pick a name! Names have to be 15 characters or less to fit on the plow. We only get to pick one name, and we have to do it by the end of October. Then at the end of the year we'll find out if we won, and our named plow will visit the school!