

December 9, 2013

Travelers advised of compacted ice and black ice on roadways

The North Dakota Department of Transportation warns the public with the below zero temperatures North Dakota is experiencing, travelers need to be aware that compacted ice and black ice may be encountered on roadways across the state.

Some areas have recently experienced freezing rain and snow, along with blowing and drifting snow. This is creating areas of scattered, compacted ice and making travel difficult on some roadways and bridges. Crews are working to improve road conditions, however de-icers are less effective in extremely cold temperatures. Maintenance crews are limited to applying abrasive material such as sand to provide temporary traction and using equipment to scrape the ice and compacted snow.

Motorists should also be aware of black ice on roadways. Black ice forms when temperatures drop rapidly and any moisture on the road freezes into a smooth, nearly invisible slippery surface. This thin layer of ice is very hard for motorists to detect, so drivers need to be especially vigilant in looking for changes in a road's surface that may affect traction. In addition, ice can form from moisture being tracked onto roadways by vehicles and from vehicles' exhaust systems.

Motorists are urged to remain cautious as you travel, even when road conditions appear to be in good condition. Do not use cruise control and stay informed about road conditions by dialing '511' or visit the website at www.dot.nd.gov for the most up-to-date information available.

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