

November 25, 2015

NDDOT wants you to ‘know before you go’ this busy travel season

The holiday season is upon us and that often times means traveling. The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) snow plow operators work hard to keep the traveling public safe, however, changing weather conditions can quickly alter road conditions and motorists need to pay attention to ensure safe travel.

The best way to stay safe, is to know before you go, and the NDDOT has multiple tools in place to help you stay informed of winter road conditions including:

- NDRoads app available for free download at the Apple app store, Google Play and Windows Phone Store.
- Travel Information Map online at www.dot.nd.gov. 90 real-time cameras available to view actual road conditions at any time of day.
- GovDelivery. Sign up for the “Message Center” to receive important emails or texts about travel information including No Travel Advisories and Road Closures.
- Call 511.

As snow plow operators and law enforcement work on roadways this winter, motorists must be aware of the “Move Over Law.” If you approach a snow plow, law enforcement vehicle or other vehicle with flashing lights stopped on the shoulder of the road, you must move over to the adjacent lane on a multi-lane road. This is for your safety along with the safety of the people working on the roads.

The NDDOT works hard to keep travelers informed of road conditions. However, the road conditions are not reported 24 hours a day but updated every day from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Time, including holidays. It’s important to remember that the conditions may vary from what is being reported.

Knowing the conditions before traveling is important, but motorists also need to be ready when they encounter winter driving conditions. To arrive at your destination safely, motorists should follow some basic safety tips while behind the wheel:

- Slow down and drive according to the conditions
- Never use cruise control on wet or icy roads
- Keep a safe distance from snow plows and other vehicles
- Turn on your headlights. Remove snow from your vehicle that could cover your lights

- Keep a winter survival kit consisting of blankets, warm clothing, food and water, flashlight and shovel in your vehicle

The NDDOT releases information to the public about road conditions on state highways and interstates. There are three categories you should familiarize yourself with:

1. **Travel Alert-** Motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways.
2. **No Travel Advised-** Motorists should not travel due to hazardous conditions which may make it unsafe to travel.
3. **Roads Closed or Blocked-** Motorist are not allowed to travel on closed roads due to life threatening conditions.

Be prepared for winter travel. For more information visit dot.nd.gov, or download the NDRoads app.