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For more information:
1-855-NDROADS (1-855-637-6237)

NDDOT urges motorists to ‘know before you go’ this winter by calling 511 or checking road map on website

North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed October 29 through November 2, *Severe Winter Weather Awareness Week*, reminding people to prepare for inclement weather to assure everyone remains safe during the coming winter months. The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) wants you to be prepared for travel this season by checking road conditions before you go. NDDOT currently offers two easy ways to find the latest road conditions; calling 511 from any phone and by checking the Travel Information Map at www.dot.nd.gov.

“The Travel Information Map and 511 system are the best place to access road condition information across the state,” said Brandon Beise, NDDOT Maintenance Division. “We have added more cameras and streaming video to the Travel Map to allow you see the actual weather and road conditions.”

Motorists calling into 511 can simply choose their route, location and direction of the desired roadway segment through touch-tone or voice activation. With frequently changing weather, motorists need to check conditions often and pay special attention to ensure safe travel. 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 roadways
- Keep a safe distance from snowplows and other vehicles
- Turn on your head lights. Remove snow from your vehicle that could cover your tail lights

Sharing the road with snowplows is also an important factor for motorists to remember this winter. By following a few basic tips, you and your passengers can reach your destination safely:

- Stay back. Sometimes snowplows have to stop and back up and they often spread sanding material.
- Know where the plow is on multi-lane roadways. The plow could be in either lane or on the shoulder.
- Be extremely cautious when passing a snowplow. They can be moved sideways by snow drifts and hard snow pack.

- Never drive through “white-outs” caused by cross winds or plowing light snow. Be patient and wait until you can see. Snowplows pull over and stop to allow traffic to pass when it is safe to do so.
- Motorists should be aware of the “Move over Law.” If you approach a snow plow or other NDDOT maintenance vehicle with flashing lights that is stopped on the shoulder of a multi-lane road, you must move over to the lane that is not next to the snow plow or vehicle, if it is safe to change lanes.

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

- **Roads are closed** when conditions create a life-threatening danger to motorists. Obey road closure reports as motorists can be fined.
- **No Travel Advisories** are issued when conditions warrant no travel but not a road closure. No Travel Advisories are issued for public safety to encourage motorists not to venture out onto roads. Motorists are urged to take No Travel Advisories seriously as these advisories have a potential to change to a road closure if conditions deteriorate. Because conditions change often during a storm event, motorists could become stranded if they are caught between destinations, so they should pay attention to these advisories.
- **Travel Alerts** are issued to warn travelers of rapidly changing conditions. The conditions are such that motorists can still travel but may have to travel at reduced speeds or with reduced visibility. Travel Alerts will be issued to warn motorists that areas of challenging winter driving conditions may be encountered. Travel Alerts have the potential to change to a No Travel Advisory if conditions deteriorate.

Remember, to be prepared this winter, know before you go. Check weather and road conditions before traveling. The best place to access current road conditions is by calling 511 or going to the NDDOT’s Travel Information Map at www.dot.nd.gov.

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