

December 30, 2013

## Travelers advised of black ice on roadways in Fargo

The North Dakota Department of Transportation warns the public with the near zero temperatures, travelers need to be aware that black ice may be encountered on roadways in the Fargo area.

Much of the black ice is created by the moisture tracked onto roadways by vehicles and from vehicles' exhaust systems. 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.

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.

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](http://www.dot.nd.gov) for the most up-to-date information available.