



# SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

## How to Stay Safe in Snowstorms

### Respect road closures



The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are solely responsible for deciding when to close or re-open a road under the Highway Traffic Act.

Do NOT go around road closure signs. Roads are closed for safety reasons.

Drivers that go around road closure signs put themselves, their passengers and first responders in danger.

### Provincial Highway conditions

Web: [www.ontario.ca/511](http://www.ontario.ca/511)

Twitter: @511Ontario

Phone: dial 511

#### School Bus cancellations:

<https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>

Or download the MySBI Bus Status App  
(available for iPhone or Android)

Winter weather can be unpredictable but some extra preparation and caution can help you stay safe.

#### Before you leave.

- Check the weather forecast. If it looks bad, delay your trip if you can.
- Clear ice and snow from your windows, lights, mirrors and roof.
- Use Ontario 511 to check road conditions:

#### On the road.

##### Travel Safely.

Assemble a Car Emergency Kit including basic items like high-energy snacks, a flashlight or road hazard light, new batteries, booster cables, kitty litter, a blanket, and warm gel packs.

##### Slow down and stay in control

Many winter collisions happen because drivers are going too fast for road conditions. Don't use cruise control on wet, snowy or icy pavement—it reduces your reaction time and vehicle control.

##### Give space

It takes longer to stop on slippery roads—make sure there's extra space between you and other vehicles.

##### Focus and stay alert

Focus on the road and don't drive distracted. Pay attention to the road surface. Black and shiny pavement could be covered in ice. Remember that shaded areas, bridges and overpasses freeze earlier than other sections of the road.

##### See and be seen

Use your vehicles full lighting system in poor visibility and whiteout conditions. If conditions become dangerous, pull over safely and wait for the weather to improve

##### Be patient

Stay well back from working snowplows and other winter maintenance vehicles. Never pass a working snowplow—it's very dangerous for you and the plow driver and could result in a severe or even fatal collision.

#### Winter tires

Putting winter tires on your vehicle:

- improves **traction** and control in frost, snow and icy conditions
- shortens **braking distances** by as much as 25%