Everyone has to do their part to get around safely in the winter. When a winter storm is expected, all municipalities have a plan:

- First, hills and bridges are treated in advance of a storm to make them easier to plow.
- As soon as snow begins, salt trucks head out and treat expressways and main roads first, followed by smaller routes.
- Plowing begins in a similar order. With large snowfalls, plowing usually begins once the storm has ended.

Drivers need to have their own plan, which includes leaving earlier and planning a route. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It’s also safer for drivers. Other ways to drive safely this winter include:

**Go slow driving in snow**

*Drive according to weather conditions, not the speed limit.*

- During a storm, posted speed limits are usually too fast. Conditions can also be unpredictable and change rapidly. Adjust your speed accordingly and give yourself extra travel time.
- Avoid sudden moves, starts or stops. Start slowly on slick or snowy roads and brake gradually, giving yourself plenty of space. Steer gently into turns to maintain control.
- Be visible. Use your low-beam headlights when it is snowing. They are brighter than daytime running lights and will turn on your tail lights.

**Be nice driving on ice**

*Stopping distance on ice is double that of a dry road.*

- Leave extra space when driving in icing conditions.
- Approach intersections slowly, when they are covered with ice or snow.
- Use extra caution on bridges and ramps. Ice can form without warning, even if roadways are dry.
- Watch out for black ice, a thin, nearly invisible coat of ice that can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement will look grey or white in the winter.

**It’s not a race, give plows space**

*Plows can’t see you and you can’t see the road ahead.*

- Plows are extra wide and throw snow and spray, making it difficult to see if the road ahead is clear for passing.
- The safest place is well behind the plow.
- Wait for plows to pull over before passing. But don’t accelerate too quickly -- the road ahead is unplowed and could be slick or snowy.
- Avoid parking in the street. Plows can’t clear roads that are blocked by parked cars.