

Risks of Snowy / Icy roads

Tips for driving safely in winter

Many winter traffic accidents occur as a result of limited visibility by snowfall as well as frozen and snowy road surfaces. Know the safety points for winter driving and utilize them for safe driving.



●Hazards in and around traffic intersections

Due to car engine's heat, the ice and snow in intersections is melted into water, creating particularly slippery conditions. Don't let your guard down just because the snow is melting.



●Take care with sudden braking

Due to sudden braking on the surface of compacted snow and ice, water droplets can be formed by frictional heat between roads and tires, creating a slippery surface.



●Take care on rutted roads

Rutted roads can be slippery



●Take care on uneven surfaces with hard-to-see bumps

Cars can be caused to spin or skid when force is applied from various directions by bumps.



●Bridge hazards

Since bridges are cooled from both surfaces (top and underneath), roads may be frozen on the bridge surface, even when roads before bridges are dry.



●Tunnel entrance and exit hazards

Due to lack of direct sunlight, the road surface ices easily in tunnels, forming black ice.

Before You depart

Plan your drive carefully!

- Give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination before dark.
- Inform those at your destination of your planned arrival time in advance.
- Check the weather and road conditions to your destination by Internet and telephone.
- In poor weather conditions, especially heavy / drifting snow, consider either changing departure times / dates or using public transportation.

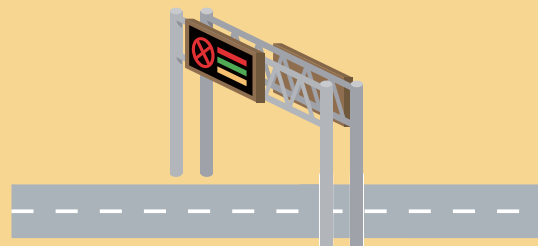
✓ Check the following carefully!

- Ensure you have enough fuel, battery power, and windshield washer fluid.
- Check the condition of winter road equipment such as tire chains, traction ropes, booster cables, and shovels.
- In case of emergency, carry extra food, water and blankets / warm clothes.
- Ensure that cell phone batteries are fully charged. Carrying a spare battery is also useful.

Weather conditions can be checked en route!

While on the road use the VICS and road information board regularly to obtain real time road weather reports for your destination. In poor weather conditions, take time to rest and use your cell phone to check Weather Reports.

Road Information Board



Road surface conditions



Black ice

The road looks wet, but the "wetness" is actually a treacherous film of ice.



Granular snow

When slush is disturbed by pedestrians and vehicles, it becomes granular.



Humps

It's unclear why, but icy humps sometimes form on the road. It's called "abacus road," because the humps look like the beards of an abacus.



Ice

Snow that thaws on the road surface refreezes and is buffed by the actions of pedestrians and vehicles. This causes the emergence of roads that are as slippery as a skating rink.

Sapporo Winter Life Promotion Council

Winter Driving Preparedness

Blizzard Whiteout Conditions Map



Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau
Government of Japan

If a car gets stuck or stalls

Don't get out of your car!

Only exit the car if in sight of an evacuation point or area where Emergency rescue personnel can be reached.

In blizzards if you become separated from your car, there is a risk of losing your positioning relative to the vehicle.

The risk of collision by vehicles approaching from behind exists, so be vigilant.



While waiting for rescue

Change out of wet clothes into the warmest cold weather wear available to keep your body temperature high.

Take care for falling body temperatures and frostbite.

Be vigilant of engine fumes, which cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

The followings are symptoms of *Hypothermia* (falling body temperature).

Shivering and teeth chattering are the First Symptoms of Hypothermia.

With a further decrease in body temperature, shivering will cease and you will experience symptoms such as Slowed Reaction Time, Absentmindedness, and Impaired Judgment.

With the onset of Frostbite, you will experience a cooling and hardening of the extremities (feet and hands) and a dulling of the nerves there.

To prevent the onset of Hypothermia and Frostbite, wrap up warmly in blankets and drink warm liquids.

Rescue may take some time. Be aware of the fuel level and battery level while occasionally running the engine to heat up the car.

Ensure the exhaust pipe is free from snow to prevent fumes from entering the car. These fumes can lead to Loss of Consciousness as a result of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. Open the windows slightly to allow exhaust fumes to escape and periodically clear the snow from around your car's muffler.

If you fall behind on the clearing of snow and there is a risk of fumes entering the car, switch the engine off, stay inside the car, and wrap yourself warmly in blankets or warm clothes until rescuers arrive.

If there is more than one passenger, take turns sleeping. Make sure there is always somebody awake to keep vigil and await Rescuers.

If in need of rescue

Flash your hazard lights and set up a stop display panel and bright-colored flags in prominent places for approaching vehicles to slow down. When calling police, fire rescue, and road service, give them as much information as possible about your location.

Be aware of the location makers posted every kilometer on the highway.



Keep Warm at all Times!



Be sure to clear snow and circulate the air!

Highway Rest Areas "Michi no Eki"

The highway rest areas "Michi-no-Eki" are available 24 hours with basic facilities, including Parking, Toilets, and Telephones. Some also have shops and cafeterias. Additionally, road condition information, road camera images, and weather information are available for viewing.

Please use these facilities whenever you need a rest on the road or whenever you feel you may have car trouble.



Information on Accidents and Weather

Emergency numbers

Police / Ambulance and Fire **110/119**

Weather information

Japan Meteorological Agency **177**
(Sapporo District Meteorological Observatory Announcement) (Weather forecast "dial 177 after the area code")

Emergency Medical Care

Hokkaido Emergency Medical Treatment Information Center **Toll free 0120-208-699** (011-221-8699)

Car Breakdown / Mechanical problems

JAF Road Service Emergency Call **Region free, 24 hours, all year around 0570-00-8139**
This is a chargeable call (10 yen per minute from a landline, 10 yen per 20 seconds from a cell phone). Not accessible from some IP phones.
If you can't get through, call the following number.
JAF Hokkaido Call Center **011-857-8139**

Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau "Hokkaido Regional Road Information"

Road regulations and weather conditions are available online



<http://info-road.hdb.hkd.mlit.go.jp/en/>

Blizzard Visibility Impairment Map

Oct.2016

Regions where Visibility Impairment Frequently occurs

Legend

□ Under 10

■ 10 - 20

■ 20 - 30

■ 30 - 40

■ Over 40

day

Regions where during winter months (November-April) on average more than or equal to 10 days of reduced visibility occurs (Less than or equal to 200 meters range of visibility)

Note: Even if reduced visibility occurs only for a few hours, the hours must count as one day.

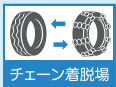
Source: Reduced Visibility Frequency Diagram (1981-2010)
Public Works Research Institute
Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region National Research and Development
Statistics Period : Winter period of November 1981-April 2011

Parking Shelters



For severe winter conditions, parking shelters are available.
These facilities have male, female and disabled toilets, fire extinguishers, public telephones, and road information boards.

Winter tire chain employment / removal site



Before most of the mountain passes, there are facilities to put on or remove tire chains on the roadside.
Some of the facilities have toilets and telephones.

Sections with Special Traffic Regulations

In this section, advance traffic regulations may be applied by patrols due to dangerous weather and local conditions.
The roads will be temporarily closed in heavy rain and similar conditions for disaster prevention.
Please be understanding.

■Standards of Traffic Restriction for Specific Reasons

No.	Route Name	Kilometer Post (mile post)	Extension	Reason
1	12	KP 123.3 ~ 127.0km	3.7km	Flooding
2	39	KP 60.4 ~ 67.2km	6.9km	Falling Rocks
3	//	KP 90.6 ~ 100.5km	9.9km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
4	40	KP 128.4 ~ 146.4km	18.0km	Avalanches
6	228	KP 79.0 ~ 85.0km	6.0km	Falling Rocks
6	229	KP 277.5 ~ 279.3km	1.8km	Falling Rocks
7	230	KP 28.5 ~ 45.6km	17.1km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
8	231	KP 79.0 ~ 83.6km	4.6km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
9	//	KP 83.6 ~ 88.4km	4.8km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
10	241	KP 13.5 ~ 35.3km	21.8km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
11	243	KP 26.3 ~ 37.5km	11.2km	Avalanches
12	274	KP 134.2 ~ 167.6km	33.3km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
13	277	KP 5.3 ~ 14.5km	9.2km	Falling Rocks / Landslides / Avalanches
14	336	KP 50.1 ~ 58.3km	8.2km	Falling Rocks / High Surf / Avalanches

CCTV Camera

The images from CCTV Camera can be viewed online "[Hokkaido Regional Road Information](#)".

PC : <http://info-road.hdb.hkd.mlit.go.jp/index.htm>

Smart phone : <http://info-road.hdb.hkd.mlit.go.jp/sp/>

Cell phone : <http://info-road.hdb.hkd.mlit.go.jp/m/>



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Sections with Traffic Regulations

In regions where damage may occur due to abnormal weather such as heavy rainfall, predefined basic regulations will certainly be Implemented.

■Traffic Regulatory Standards

No.	Route Name	Rainfall	Kilometer Post (mile post)	Extension	Reason
1	39	100mm	KP 67.2 ~ 86.3km	19.2km	Landslides / Falling Rocks
2	228	110mm	KP 14.2 ~ 16.5km	2.3km	Falling Rocks / Collapses
3	229	100mm	KP 63.5 ~ 68.7km	5.2km	Falling Rocks / Collapses / High Surf
4	//	120mm	KP 102.7 ~ 114.3km	11.6km	Falling Rocks
5	//	100mm	KP 120.3 ~ 122.6km	2.3km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
6	//	80mm	KP 173.5 ~ 179.6km	6.1km	Collapses
7	232	120mm	KP 111.6 ~ 116.5km	4.9km	Collapses
8	239	80mm	KP 126.4 ~ 145.0km	18.6km	Falling Rocks / Landslides / Avalanches
9	273	100mm	KP 58.0 ~ 70.0km	12.0km	Falling Rocks / River Flooding
10	334	140mm	KP 33.9 ~ 51.6km	17.7km	Falling Rocks / Collapses
11	336	100mm	KP 15.1 ~ 23.2km	8.0km	Falling Rocks / Avalanches
12	//	80mm	KP 60.4 ~ 72.0km	11.6km	Falling Rocks / Collapses / High Surf / Avalanches
13	//	120mm	KP 72.5 ~ 79.0km	6.5km	Falling Rocks / Collapses / High Surf / Avalanches
14	451	100mm	KP 18.4 ~ 31.4km	5.0km	Falling Rocks / Collapses / Avalanches / Landslides
15	452	100mm	KP 24.4 ~ 34.4km	10.0km	Falling Rocks / Collapses
16	//	100mm	KP 41.6 ~ 43.6km	2.0km	Collapses
17	453	160mm	KP 21.7 ~ 33.7km	12.0km	Falling Rocks / Collapses
18	//	100mm	KP 102.6 ~ 103.6km	1.0km	Falling Rocks / Collapses

Legend

Expressway

National Highway (semi-toll road)

National Highway

Traffic regulation

Special traffic regulations

Railway

Regional Boundary

Parking Shelter

CCTV Camera

Winter tire chain employment / removal site

Airport

Major Port

River / Dam

Section closed during winter months