



# Know Before You Go | Winter Road Conditions

## Traffic Management Center

The Wisconsin DOT's Traffic Management Center (TMC) handles traffic management for the state of Wisconsin. The physical operations center is located in Milwaukee.

- The TMC is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and communicates regularly with sheriff, fire, police and Wisconsin State Patrol, as well as media outlets and construction project managers.
- The TMC is a powerful hub of Intelligent Transportation Systems for Wisconsin's state highways. This includes more than 500 highway traffic cameras and 160 Dynamic Message Signs to help provide real time information to the traveling public.
- The TMC is also the brain-center for 511 Wisconsin, the state's free, easy-to-use traveler information system that launched in 2009.
  - Online or via the app, you can access live video feeds of traffic cameras, winter road conditions, etc.
- TMC operators play a critical role in the safety of the traveling public by monitoring and reporting traffic conditions including emergencies, crashes, breakdowns, weather and increased congestion.
- The TMC control room routinely assists with more than 30,000 incidents annually ranging from location of disabled vehicles to crashes, debris on roadway and wrong-way drivers.
- Programs run out of the TMC include the Freeway Service Team and Traffic Incident Management Coalition.

## Winter Road Conditions

[511wi.gov](http://511wi.gov) serves the public by providing critical traveler information for roadway events. One feature of the system is winter road conditions.

From November 1, 2023 to March 30, 2024, the winter road conditions feature of [511wi.gov](http://511wi.gov) was viewed 1,145,277 times. During a storm event on January 13, 2024, the free traveler information site was viewed 127,238 times.

The updated the Winter Road Conditions will streamline and generalize the winter road conditions categories to:

- Normal
- Partially Covered
- Completely Covered
- Travel Not Advised
- No Report

The new categories will provide accurate information to reflect actual current road conditions. The TMC monitors and manually adjusts the road conditions as necessary.



### Winter Road Conditions ⓘ

#### Normal

- Dry or wet pavement. May include icy bridge decks.
- There may be reduced visibility, adjust driving speeds accordingly.

#### Partially Covered

- Ice, sleet/slush, snow or mixture of these causing the roadway to be partially covered (up to 50%).
- Roadway may become slick, snow packed or rutted.
- May include moderate blowing and drifting snow.
- Drivers may experience difficulty seeing road markings.
- There may be reduced visibility, adjust driving speeds accordingly.

#### Completely Covered

- Pavement completely covered (i.e., rain, frost, ice sleet/slush, snow or a mixture thereof).
- Sleet/slush means pavement is 100% wet and may have slick spots or standing water.
- Snow accumulation completely obscures the pavement markings.
- Heavy snowfall, strong winds, ground drifting and freezing rain make travel difficult and hazardous.
- There may be reduced visibility, adjust driving speeds accordingly.

#### Travel Not Advised

- The roadway has significantly reduced visibility with dangerous travel impacts.
- There are reports of intermittent white out conditions.
- Some weather conditions can be severe enough that road treatments, such as salt or sand, are not effective.
- Emergency vehicles and snow removal equipment may be called off the roadway due to the conditions.
- In the event of an emergency, it may be impossible for emergency vehicles to reach the scene.

#### No Report

- No condition report for this roadway segment has been received within a preconfigured time threshold.

### Winter Road Conditions ⓘ

