

IOWA WINTER DRIVING CONDITION GUIDELINES

Road condition reports courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation: From October 15 to April 15, the Iowa DOT reports winter road conditions on Interstates, U.S., and state highways in Iowa. Reported conditions, described below, are updated every two hours; however, road conditions may change rapidly between reporting periods. A roadway with no report available does not indicate normal driving conditions; adverse driving conditions may be present.

- **Seasonal:** The roadway is dry or wet, and is generally clear. However, isolated frozen precipitation may exist, including icy bridge decks. **DAS Guidelines:** *Traveling to conduct State business should only be approved when it is deemed the most effective and efficient method of accomplishing the agency's requirements. This is true even in the most ideal travel conditions.*
- **Partially covered:** Frost, ice, sleet/slush, snow or a mixture of precipitation is causing the roadway to be partially covered. Drivers may experience periods when roadway markings are difficult to see. The roadway surface may become slick, snow packed and rutted. Moderate blowing and drifting snow along with occasional drifts may be encountered. **DAS Guidelines:** *When possible, travel should be deferred until conditions improve, or alternate routes considered if they offer better road conditions.*
- **Completely covered:** The roadway is completely covered with precipitation. Accumulation is to the point that the roadway markings are most likely obscured, making it difficult to differentiate between the roadway and its surroundings. These conditions could make travel difficult or hazardous. **DAS Guidelines:** *Travel should be suspended until road conditions improve if at all possible. Only time sensitive, mission critical travel should occur, and then only with appropriate caution and at speeds appropriate to the road conditions.*
- **Travel not advised:** The roadway has deteriorated to the point that it is very dangerous to travel. Emergency vehicles and snow plows may be called off of the roadway due to the conditions. In the event of an emergency, it may be impossible to get emergency vehicles to the scene. **DAS Guidelines:** *Driving should be limited to law enforcement or emergency vehicles only.*
- **Impassable or closed:** A road that is impassable is blocked by snow or disabled vehicles. A road that is closed has travel restricted by barricades, fence, gate, official equipment/vehicles or other physical means. Iowa law prohibits motorists from entering a closed roadway or moving traffic control devices. **DAS Guidelines:** *Any travel to conduct State Business shall not occur over impassable or closed roads.*

Refer to the Iowa DOT's Traveler Information/511 website www.511ia.org and maps for additional information, or call DAS Fleet Services at 515-281-3162.