

**NEW DRIVERS**  
**DRIVING IN THE SNOW AND ICE**

**KELLY MANNING:** Welcome to DMV Infocast, an audio production of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Kelly Manning, Infocast Editor.

Through the winter months, people need to remember to be extra cautious while driving, especially during a snow or ice storm. Today we are here with **Michelle Abrahamson** of the Wethersfield Branch Office to talk about driving in snowy or icy weather.

**KELLY:** Michelle, how can drivers prepare for a snowy morning commute?

**MICHELLE:** Well, you would fully clean off your windshield, lights and excess snow from your car, and also give yourself enough time to get to where you need to go.

**KELLY:** After a person fully dusts off his or her vehicle and pulls out of the driveway, how can he or she better ensure a safe ride to work or school?

**MICHELLE:** You should make sure that your lights are on. Keep your defroster on. Make sure you keep a snow brush or ice scraper in your car, maintain a safe distance from the car in front of you. And also, if you can, have an emergency kit in your vehicle.

**KELLY:** What should a person do if they are braking and their vehicle starts to skid, and is there anything that a person can do to prevent skidding?

**MICHELLE:** If your vehicle starts to skid, you should ease off your gas and just steer the vehicle. Whatever you do, do not slam on your brakes. That will only make matters worse. To prevent skidding, one should take their time and use caution when traveling in inclement weather.

**KELLY:** Most people know that they should always keep up maintenance on their vehicles, but what equipment should definitely be working properly, especially in winter months?

**MICHELLE:** Before the winter months, you should go and make sure that you have good snow tires, or all-weather tires on your vehicle so you have ample traction. Make sure your windshield wipers are working properly and you should have plenty of washer fluid. Also, make sure you have plenty of gas.

**KELLY:** What should a person do if they're driving on the road and a snowplow is approaching them or passing them on the road?

**MICHELLE:** Allow the plow to pass. It will make for an easier commute for you if you are behind the plow instead of in front of it or beside it.

**KELLY:** Sometimes these plows hit certain roads and not others. What roads do you recommend that are the safest to drive on and have the least ice and snow and are plowed the best?

**MICHELLE:** Based on my own experience, there isn't any road which is safer to drive on in snow and ice. Just be smart and use caution. Even when the roads look safe, they may not be. Looks can be deceiving.

**KELLY:** So you wouldn't recommend highway driving over local driving or vice versa?

**MICHELLE:** Well, highway driving, there will be more traffic on the roadway, so it would be easier to get to where you need to go. However, any kind of snowy condition, you should use caution.

**KELLY:** In inclement weather, is there a time of the day that is a little bit safer to drive than other times?

**MICHELLE:** Whenever possible, one should probably try to avoid traveling on snowy days. But if you must travel, wait until the roads are clear, and remember to leave plenty of time and use caution.

**KELLY:** Is there anything else a person can do to prepare for a safer commute in the winter months?

**MICHELLE:** Besides everything that I have mentioned, maybe one can carpool with one that has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. Also there's public transportation available.

**KELLY:** If I'm a new driver and I have a scheduled road test, and I wake up in the morning and it's snowy or icy, what should I do?

**MICHELLE:** Well, you have a couple of options. First, you should either contact the Department of Motor Vehicles through our general information line, that's 1-800-842-8222, or in the Hartford area you may call 263-5700 to check and see if your appointment has been cancelled. If it has been cancelled then we will reschedule your appointment.

If you should go into the DMV and your appointment is cancelled, what will happen is you will take your written test. We will hold your results, and we will give you a card so you can come back another day to take your road test.

**KELLY:** What if it's snowy and I'm coming to take my road test and my test is still on? What should I do?

**MICHELLE:** Well, you should be prepared to take the test. You should know how to drive in the snowy conditions. Take your time, and use caution while driving.

**KELLY:** Lastly, the Department of Motor Vehicles may have a delayed opening due to inclement weather. Where can a customer find out information on the DMV's hours when the road conditions are poor and we are opening late?

**MICHELLE:** There are many different ways that customers can find out the DMV hours when the traveling conditions are not ideal. The person could call the general information line at 1-800-842-8222, or in the Hartford area they may call 263-5700. Also the hours for the DMV are posted on the website at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv). You may also find information by listening to announcements on your local television stations and radio stations.

**KELLY:** Well, thank you very much Michelle for being with us here today. Hopefully, people will take your advice and use caution while driving in the winter months.

**KELLY MANNING:** This has been an Infocast produced by the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. Thank you for listening.