




Be extra careful in these kinds of places!

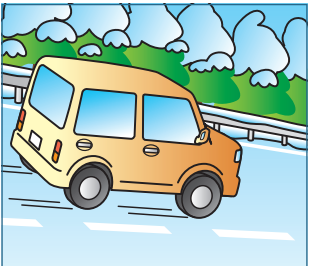


—In order to drive safely and comfortably on expressways in the winter—



Twice as many accidents happen in the winter as in the spring and fall in Hokkaido

In a typical year, accidents suddenly increase around November, the beginning of winter. In winter, road surfaces become extremely slippery because they are covered with snow and ice, so driving at the same speeds and same steering as in summer is quite dangerous. Always drive with great care and with possible dangers in mind.

<p>Next to a large vehicle</p>  <p>When you are driving behind or next to a large vehicle, a cloud of snow can decrease your visibility, so be careful.</p>	<p>Before curves</p>  <p>Driving too fast may cause an accident. Reduce your speed before curves and avoid abrupt steering and sudden stops.</p>	<p>On bridges</p>  <p>Winter winds cause a lot of black ice. Be careful not to skid.</p>
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<p>Long downhill stretches</p>  <p>Driving downhill for long distances may cause your speed to increase. Take care to maintain an appropriate speed and a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you.</p>	<p>Entrances and exits of tunnels</p>  <p>High winds and sudden snow may occur. Take care when driving through tunnels as the road inside may become icy.</p>	<p>Road conditions in the shade</p>  <p>Pay close attention to road conditions in the shade on mountain roads and under bridges. Ice develops easily in these areas due to the low temperature.</p>
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Measures for snow and ice

Roads are being cleared of snow 24 hours a day to allow drivers to use them more safely and comfortably. Depending on road conditions, this work may be going on even after the weather has improved.

You may not pass snowplows in operation.

Safety is the first priority, so passing is not allowed.

Snow cleared aside by snowplows causes differences in level, so for safety's sake passing is not allowed.






Snowplows regularly suspend operations at some intervals to allow cars to pass.

Snowplows in operation may not be passed, but snowplows suspend operations at some intervals, and pull over to the hard shoulder to allow cars behind them to pass.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Snow removal work

<p>Clearing newly fallen snow</p>  <p>A group of three snowplows and a VMS vehicle is working together to clear entire lanes. So long as this work is going on, passing is not possible.</p>	<p>Snow removal for widening</p>  <p>Snow pushed onto the shoulders of roads is cast off the road by rotary-type snowplows. On bridges and elevated sections of road it is loaded into dump trucks and carried away.</p>	<p>Work to prevent freezing</p>  <p>To prevent road surfaces from freezing, an anti-freezing agent (sodium chloride) is scattered. Take care in passing while the agent is being sprayed. Take care in passing while the agent is being scattered.</p>
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