



# KOOTENAI COUNTY

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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February 15, 2019

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### ICE AND SNOW TAKE IT SLOW

As winter has begun in full force all across North Idaho this past week it is important to remember to practice safe driving habits, all travelers are encouraged to follow these simple rules and tips throughout the rest of the winter season:

- Always wear a seat belt.
- Slow down. Slower speeds, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking all are required in winter driving conditions.
- Drop it and drive. Put down the handheld devices.
- Don't crowd the plow. A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they may not see you.
- Avoid using cruise control in snow and ice.
- Watch out for black ice on roads that appear clear but can be treacherous.
- Be especially careful approaching intersections, ramps, bridges and shady areas. All are prone to icing.
- Do not travel during bad weather unless absolutely necessary. If you do have to make a trip, check the forecast and make sure someone is aware of your travel route. Consider taking public transportation if it is an option.
- Prepare an emergency kit that contains jumper cables, flares or reflectors, windshield washer fluid, a small ice scraper, traction material, blankets, non-perishable food and a first-aid kit.
- Carry a cell phone and a car charger in case of emergency.

Winter weather causes extremely dangerous driving conditions, by planning ahead and being prepared you are working to ensure your safety and the safety of others out on the roadways. As the snow continues to fall make sure to also keep an eye on snow loads on homes, outbuildings, and businesses to determine if snow or icicle removal is necessary.

To check the upcoming weather report visit [www.weather.gov/spokane](http://www.weather.gov/spokane). If you need to travel, use caution. Call 511 to get information on the most recent road conditions.