

Winter Safety Guide

Last Reviewed: January 2026

This guide provides practical resources and reminders to help you prepare for winter driving and cold-weather conditions in Central Indiana. Always use sound judgment and follow local advisories.

Check Conditions Before You Travel

- [Indiana Travel Advisories](https://www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory) – [in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory](https://www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory)
- [INDOT Road Reports & Traffic Cameras](https://www.in.gov/indot/road-reports-traffic-cameras) – [511in.org](https://www.in.gov/indot/road-reports-traffic-cameras)
- [Indianapolis Snow Force Map](https://www.in.gov/indy/snow) – [indy.gov/snow](https://www.in.gov/indy/snow)
- [Google Maps Traffic](https://www.google.com/maps) – [maps.google.com](https://www.google.com/maps) (enable traffic layer)
- [Indianapolis Road Plowing Priorities](https://www.in.gov/indy/snow) – [indy.gov/snow](https://www.in.gov/indy/snow)

Vehicle Readiness Checklist

- Inspect tires for tread depth and proper inflation; confirm spare tire condition.
- Test battery health before extreme cold arrives.
- Verify headlights, brake lights, and turn signals are functioning.
- Confirm windshield wipers are in good condition and washer fluid is rated for freezing temperatures.
- Keep fuel tank at least half full during winter weather events.

Winter Emergency Kit (Recommended)

- Ice scraper and small shovel
- Blanket and extra warm clothing (hat, gloves, socks)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Phone charger, portable power bank and seasonally recharged jump box
- Basic first aid kit
- Bottled water and non-perishable snacks
- Reflective triangles or emergency markers

Safe Winter Driving Reminders

- Reduce speed and increase following distance on snow or ice.
- Avoid sudden braking or sharp steering movements.
- Match your speed to conditions — not posted limits.
- Wear your seat belt at all times.
- If conditions are unsafe, delay travel when possible.

Additional Preparedness Resources

- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) – Winter storm preparation guidance
- [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) – Local forecasts and alerts
- [NWS Indianapolis](https://www.weather.gov/ind) – [weather.gov/ind](https://www.weather.gov/ind)

Preparation reduces risk. Review this checklist at the beginning of each winter season and before major weather events.