

# Safe, pleasant driving on expressways in winter

## Pay special attention to places such as these!

–Safe, pleasant driving on expressways in winter–



**In Hokkaido, traffic accidents are twice as likely in winter as in other seasons.**

Winter conditions start from November, the beginning of winter. The likelihood of accidents increases. Snow and ice on the road create slippery conditions in winter. It's quite dangerous to steer or otherwise drive as you would in summer. Please drive accordingly.

### If you drive near any large motor vehicles...



Large motor vehicles throw up snow that can create a temporary loss of visibility.

### Before entering the curve...



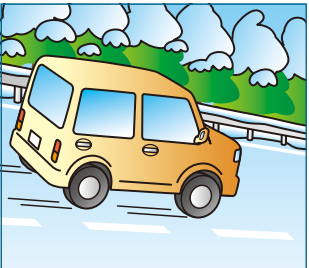
You're much more likely to skid if you're going too fast. Slow down before entering the curve, and avoid rapid direction changes or sudden braking.

### On bridges



Bridges are exposed to cold winds, so they're often icy. Please be careful in icy road conditions.

### Long downhill slopes



One tends to go faster on long downhill slopes. Slow down and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

### Tunnel entrances and exits



Strong winds blow at tunnel entrances and exits. It may be snowing at one end of the tunnel but not the other. Please be aware that the road inside a tunnel is often icy.

### Shaded roads



Temperatures stay low in the shade of sunken roads or overbridges. Such roads are often icy. Drive carefully on these sections.

## Oh, a snowplow is clearing the road. When you see a snowplow...

Snow removal machinery operates around the clock to improve the driving conditions. This work may continue even after snow stops, because of the road conditions.

**You cannot overtake snowplows in operation.**

### For your safety, you're prohibited from overtaking snowplows.

Snowplows may leave snow at the edges where the blade passes, making it dangerous to drive. Never overtake a snowplow.



### Snowplows pause their operation to let you pass.

Snowplows regularly give way to expressway users by moving to the roadside and pausing operations.



**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**

## Various ways of clearing snow from the road

### Snow removal when snow is falling



Three snowplows acting as a team may line up next to each other across the road to remove snow from the whole road width. In this case, there's no chance of overtaking.

### Road widening snow removal



Rotary blowers throw snow beyond the road shoulder to increase the effective road width. Snow on bridges is hauled by truck.

### Salt spreading



Salt (sodium chloride) is spread on the road. Please be careful when overtaking salt spreaders.