



NORTH DAKOTA
STATE CLIMATE OFFICE

WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Winter weather can be dangerous.

Prepare by staying informed about winter weather, and how to keep yourself and your community safe!

- **Winter Weather Products**
- **Winter Driving**
- **Ice Fishing Safety**
- **Avoid Frostbite**

Have a way to receive alerts!

Weather radio, phone, TV, or social media are a few ways to stay weather aware.

GET PREPARED BEFORE
WINTER WEATHER STRIKES!

NORTH DAKOTA

**OCTOBER 27 - 31
2025**



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Watch vs. Warning



The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings based on criteria to warn the public of inclement weather.

A **Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for severe winter weather, but exact timing and location are still uncertain.

Watches are normally issued 36-48 hours prior to the event.

A **Warning** is issued when there is a direct threat to life and property from severe winter weather that is imminent or occurring.

Warnings are normally issued 12-24 hours prior to the event.

An Advisory is issued for less hazardous conditions that may still pose a potential threat to life and property if precautions are not taken.



WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS

The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings based on criteria to warn the public of inclement weather.



Winter Storm

- Six inches of snow in 12 hours, or 8 inches in 24 hours, and/or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of sleet accumulation are expected
- Mixed precipitation and blowing snow may also be possible

Blizzard

- Sustained or frequent wind gusts of 35 mph or greater and visibilities of less than one quarter mile for at least three hours are expected

Ice Storm

- $\frac{1}{4}$ inches or more of ice accumulation is expected

Extreme Cold

- Wind chill values of -40°F or colder are expected



WINTER TRAVEL PRODUCTS

The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP), other law enforcement agencies, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) coordinate on road conditions.



Travel Alerts

- Issued to alert motorists that challenging winter driving conditions may be encountered on roadways
- Travel is possible, but delays due to reduced speeds and visibility are likely

No Travel Advisory

- Conditions warrant no travel, but roads are not closed yet
- Issued for public safety to encourage staying off the roads

Road Closure

- Roads are closed. Do not travel!
- Anyone who knowingly proceeds past a road closure device is in violation of state law, carrying a fine of \$250



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WINTER DRIVING



Before you travel, ensure your vehicle is equipped with a winter survival kit and has plenty of fuel.

Always let someone know of your travel plans and check the weather and road conditions beforehand.

NEVER USE CRUISE CONTROL ON SLIPPERY WINTER ROADS!

Don't Crowd The Plow

Stay at least 5 car lengths back of plows to avoid blind spots, sand, and white-out conditions. Don't assume there's good traction on freshly sanded roadways.

Don't Go Far... Stay With The Car

Do not leave your vehicle if you become stranded! Disorientation can come quick in blinding snow, blizzard conditions, and cold temperatures. Distances are often difficult to gauge and what seems like a quick walk, could be miles.

Conserve fuel by periodically running the engine for heat, but be sure to keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and keep at least one window slightly cracked.

DO NOT FALL ASLEEP!



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Ice Fishing Safety



Remember the dangers of snow cover and ice when venturing out onto rivers and lakes!

An early insulating snow pack slows the rate of ice growth which may cause thin ice well into the winter months.

Snow can mask cracks or weak spots in the ice.

Pay attention to thin ice signs posted by law enforcement.

Always carry an ice chisel to test the ice beforehand and ice picks to pull yourself out in case of going through the ice.

Do not drive on ice when uncertain of conditions, at night, or when it is snowing.

WHEN IN DOUBT... DON'T GO OUT!



AVOID FROSTBITE

Avoid or limit outdoor activities during times of extreme cold! If you must go out, make sure to wear layers and cover exposed skin.

Warning Signs

- Skin will initially become red, but as the situation progresses, skin will become white or grayish yellow
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- Numbness

Treatment

- Get into a warm room ASAP
- Do not walk on frostbitten feet, unless absolutely necessary
- Immerse the affected area in warm - not hot - water or warm the affected area using body heat
- Do not rub the frostbitten area
- Do not use a heating pad, fireplace, radiator, etc as the affected areas can easily be burned

**FROSTBITE CAN OCCUR IN AS LITTLE AS
5 MINUTES!**



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Stay Weather Aware!

National Weather Service:

- Fargo/Grand Forks
- Bismarck
- Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Aberdeen
- Sioux Falls

ND Roads



North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network

North Dakota State Climate Office

Winter Weather Awareness Week 2025

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