



January 2013

Hardin County, Kentucky

County Ready For Season's First Snow Storm

County Preparations

Our Hardin County Road Department is ready for another winter snow-plowing season on our 589 miles of county roads. They have over 2,3000 tons of salt on hand, and plan to spread approximately 181 tons per day in severe weather conditions at a cost of \$12,465 per day for the salt alone!



The county has 11 tandem trucks and five single-axle trucks equipped with plows and spreaders to clear the snow. With heavy snow, we also utilize two road graders and one backhoe.

Patience

Please be patient with our County Road Crew. They open our roads as fast as possible. They divide the county into five areas and clear 137 "Priority Roads" (main connecting roads) in each area first. Then, turn to the non-priority roads. The Road Crews work 10-hour shifts, around the clock, until our roads are clear. Their time can vary from 8 hours in a light snow fall to 5 days in heavy snow storms. Two work-crews, consisting of 10 drivers and 2 mechanics on each crew, rotate day and night to clear the 889 roads in the county.

Safety Precautions

Prepare

1. **Maintain your car:** Check battery, tire tread, tire inflation, and wipers.
2. **Keep your lights and windshield clean.**
3. **Keep your gas tank at least half full** to avoid gas line freeze-up.
4. **Pack a winter safety kit:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive materials, shovel, snow brush, ice scraper, warning devices, and blankets.
5. **Know your route** and keep abreast of weather conditions. Use primary roads and avoid infrequently traveled roads which freeze first.



Driving Tips for Icy Roads

1. **Decrease your speed** and leave yourself at least 3 times as much space as usual between you and the car in front.
2. **Brake gently** to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock, ease off brake.
3. **Turn on your lights** to increase visibility.
4. **Use low gears** to keep traction, especially on hills.
5. **Don't use cruise control or overdrive.**
6. **Be careful on bridges and overpasses.**
7. **Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks.** Drivers have limited visibility.
8. **Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions.** Even 4-wheel drive vehicles encounter trouble on ice.



Judge/Executive
Harry L. Berry

Driving Tips for Snow

1. **Accelerate and decelerate slowly.** This is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Take time to slow down for a stoplight.
2. **Drive slowly.** Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads.
3. **Don't stop if you can avoid it.** There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.



4. **Don't power up hills.** Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill slowly.
5. **Don't stop going up a hill.** There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill.
6. **Stay home.** If you really don't have to go out. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can.