



# PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGE

**Date:** February 23, 2010  
**Subject:** Harris County Winter Weather Conditions

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## **Snow Possible in Harris County Prevent Accidents on Icy Roads**

The most recent National Weather Service forecast calls for up to an inch of snow in Harris County today. Bridges and overpasses could become icy overnight if temperatures dip below freezing, so Wednesday's early commute could be hazardous. Motorists should remember that 70% of winter deaths attributed to snow and ice involve motor vehicle accidents.

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM) has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will be monitoring weather conditions throughout the day and overnight.

OHSEM recommends the following to help you avoid winter weather accidents:

- Always buckle your seatbelt.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges and overpasses.
- Know your vehicle and how it operates. Not all cars respond the same to slippery roads.

Listed below are other smart tips to follow before freezing temperatures set in:

- Check your tires to make sure the tread is not too worn.
- Check your car battery.
- Keep blankets, first-aid kit, flares, jumper cables, flashlight, ice scraper and gloves in your car.
- Carry snacks in case you become stranded.
- Keep the gasoline level as high as possible to prevent water condensation in the tank.
- Check the automobile's motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, ignition system, lights, heater, cooling system and wipers.

You can monitor road conditions at the Houston TranStar website <http://www.houstontranstar.org> or the Texas Department of Transportation Web site [http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road\\_conditions.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road_conditions.htm).

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