



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Park Rangers Remind Grand Canyon Visitors to Use Caution When Driving in Winter Conditions

Grand Canyon, AZ – Northern Arizona has experienced several winter storms over the last few weeks. Visitors to Grand Canyon National Park are advised that during snow storms, winter driving conditions may exist. These conditions may result in temporary closures of park roads.

The Grand Canyon is a spectacular winter destination, and visitors are encouraged to experience this peaceful season. The National Park Service reminds drivers that winter at the Grand Canyon provides its own unique set of challenges. Visitors are urged to monitor weather conditions closely and to be prepared for decreased visibility and temporarily snow-packed and icy roads if a storm should occur. Those who must drive in these conditions should remember: where there is “ice and snow, take it slow – slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking.”

The following is courtesy of weather.com and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

- Drive with your headlights on and keep your lights and windshield clear.
- **Ice and Snow, take it Slow.** Don't get overconfident with four-wheel drive. It won't help you stop any faster.
- Allow at least three times more room than you usually do between you and the vehicle in front of you. Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances.
- Avoid abrupt actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Be especially careful on infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.
- Avoid using cruise control or overdrive.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you must use your brakes, do so gently to avoid skidding. Give yourself plenty of room to stop.

If you should slide off the road, wait for assistance in a safe location to avoid being struck by other motorists.

The National Park Service is committed to protecting not only special places, but the people who choose to experience and learn from them. If you make a winter visit to Grand Canyon National Park, we suggest learning more about conditions and the activities, services and programs available to enhance your winter experience by visiting our web-site at www.nps.gov/grca.

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