



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Turnpike Prepares Snowplow Trucks for Winter Driving Season

By Ferzan Ahmed
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In preparation for the winter driving season, Ohio Turnpike staff this past week performed its annual 136-point inspection of all snowplow trucks and equipment at eight maintenance buildings located across the 241-mile toll road.

This year, more than 100 snowplow trucks will be available to maintain the 1,395 lane miles, 31 toll plaza interchanges, and 14 service plazas along the Ohio Turnpike, which traverses through 13 counties in northern Ohio.

The maintenance checklist includes an inspection of all engine parts, plowing equipment, tires, lights, and other components as well as a test calibration of the salt and liquid de-icing systems, and more.

When the snowplow trucks are in action, motorists should take every precaution to avoid passing the trucks and allow extra space for the drivers to clear the road. Don't crowd the plow. The safest place to be on the road is behind a snowplow truck.

With our current staffing and equipment levels at the maintenance buildings in Pioneer, Swanton, Elmore, Castalia, Amherst, Richfield, Windham and Canfield, the entire Ohio Turnpike can be plowed once per hour.

The maintenance and roadway crews strive to have the pavement in a wet-only (no frozen precipitation) condition within one hour of a storm's cessation. The crews met this goal 100% of the time for 55 winter storm events during the 2021-2022 season.

Our crews take a lot a pride in their work to ensure the Ohio Turnpike is a safe, well-maintained option for motorists to travel during the winter snow and ice season.

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And our mechanics are committed to keeping the snowplow trucks and equipment at the maintenance facilities in excellent condition so that the chances of a breakdown are minimal during winter storms.

The Ohio Turnpike does not shut down during local snow emergencies. But during any winter storm, motorists should always consider traveling only when necessary.

If your vehicle breaks down or you are involved in a crash, turn on your hazard lights, move your vehicle as far off the roadway as possible, remain in the vehicle, and call #677 for assistance.

Ahmed is executive director of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission in Berea, Ohio. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering.

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