

# Nebraska CODES Traffic Safety Facts 2011

## Adverse Weather Related Crashes in Nebraska : Be Ready for Snow



Adverse weather - rain, snow, wind, sleet, hail, fog, etc. - influences roadway safety. Adverse weather reduces visibility, decreases stability and reduces controllability which increases the risk of a crash. In Nebraska from 2006 to 2010, about 15% of crashes occurred under adverse weather-related conditions. These crashes resulted in 139 deaths and 11,919 injuries. Half (50.8%) occurred under snowy/icy weather-related conditions. Usually the first snowstorm creates over twice as many crashes as those occurring on a typical day (Table 1). Under snowy-weather or the icy/snow road conditions, the most common driver's fault resulting in crashes was "driving too fast for conditions" (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Top 5 Drivers' Contribution Factors for

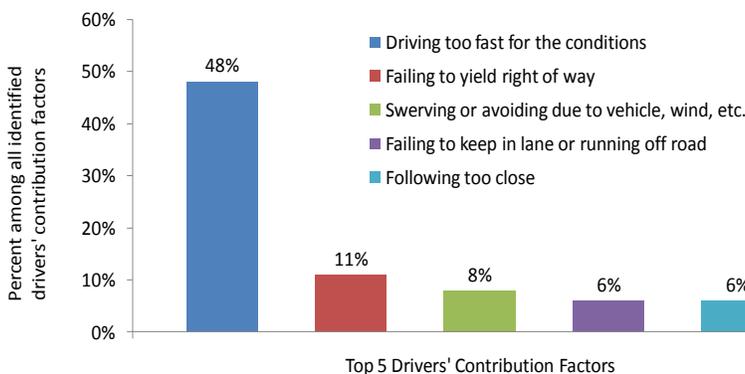


Table 1 Number of Crashes on the Day of First Snow, Nebraska, 2006-2010

Date of First Snow*	Number of Crashes	Daily Average # of Crashes
12/31/2006	135	82
11/21/2007	89	90
12/03/2008	86	86
10/10/2009	124	87
12/11/2010	105	83

### Tips for Driving in Snow and Ice: Stay Alert. Slow Down. Stay in Control.

1. If you can avoid driving in bad winter weather, then do not drive at all.
2. Prepare yourself and your vehicle for the first snowstorm. Check your vehicle's tires, lights, windshield wipers, defroster and battery before the first snowstorm comes.
3. Reduce speed and maintain a slow, steady speed.
4. Keep extra space between vehicles.
5. Keep your vision clear and obtain maximum visibility; keep the windows and windshield clear; use window wipers, defroster and low-beam headlights. See and be seen.
6. Slowly start and stop.
7. Avoid turning, swerving or braking suddenly.
8. Do not use cruise control. It can cause you to lose control of the vehicle.
9. Pay attention and use caution when driving across bridges, ramps and overpasses, which freeze first.
10. In severe weather, pull your car safely and completely off the road until conditions improve.
11. Buckle your seat belt and always buckle up children using proper safety seats.