



# TOLLTAG INSIDER



## Are You Ready?

January 2022

The old saying goes, “If you don’t like the weather in Texas, just wait five minutes and it will change.” Well, sometimes it changes a little too quickly. With these tips from NTTA Safety and Emergency Manager Steve Swanberg, you’ll be prepared for any winter weather surprises.

- Check that tires have adequate tread and are balanced and inflated properly. As temperatures drop, so will your tire pressure. You may regain a pound or two of pressure as you drive, but make sure you have fully inflated tires before cold weather hits. Make sure your spare tire is also inflated.
- Ensure windshield wiper blades work and fluid levels are filled. Do not fill your fluid reservoir with water. The water could freeze and damage the pump.
- Test your car battery and electric system to reduce the chances of failure (most automotive retailers offer a free test).
- Carry an emergency kit in your vehicle. Some helpful items to include: a thermal blanket, battery booster cables, flashlight, basic first aid kit, hand warmers, water and ice scraper).
- Get familiar with your vehicle’s safety technology and how it performs in wintry conditions. Find out if your vehicle has an anti-lock brake system. If it doesn’t, you’ll need to pump your brakes if your wheels start to lock up in snow or ice conditions.

## **Are You Ready? Continued**

When winter weather hits, NTTA's hard-working and dedicated staff springs into action to help improve road conditions for customers. Our state-of-the-art Safety Operations Center monitors road conditions 24/7/365 and dispatches help where needed. When a winter storm is in the forecast, we also pre-treat our roads to help slow ice development. Our team also travels across our entire system, looking for and treating potential icy spots. Remember, even specially treated roads cannot stop ice from forming. As needed, NTTA can deploy more than 100 dump trucks with spreaders to dispense de-icing material, over 25 snowplows and numerous other equipment. For your safety and ours, please be sure to give these vehicles plenty of space on the road.

In winter storm conditions, always drive slow and cautiously and keep six seconds of space between vehicles. To do this, simply watch the vehicle in front pass a road sign or another fixed object and count at least six seconds before passing the same object.

And remember whether it's two degrees or 72 degrees, our Roadside Safety Services offer FREE roadside help on all NTTA roads. If you have car trouble or have an emergency on an NTTA road, call #999 or dial 9-1-1 to be connected directly to the NTTA Safety Operations Center.