



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Highway Crews Addressing Snow and Freezing Rain Impacts to Kentucky Highways

Kentuckians urged to watch for icy roads and to continue avoiding unnecessary travel

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 25, 2026) – Team Kentucky state highway crews continue to treat and plow snow and ice-covered roads across the Commonwealth as conditions intensified overnight and today bringing heavier snow showers and freezing rain. While plow trucks will remain active to keep routes passable, ice and extreme cold temperatures create additional threats to public safety like refreezing and slick roads, downed trees and power lines, and dangerous conditions for stranded drivers. Kentuckians are encouraged to continue avoiding unnecessary travel for their safety and to give crews and first responders room to work.

“While snow and freezing rain are expected to taper off tonight, the most dangerous impacts of this storm — ice and extreme cold — will linger throughout the week and continue to pose serious risks for drivers,” said Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray. “Our crews are working to address as many roads as possible, with a focus on keeping critical emergency routes passable. Persistent cold means progress will take time as we dig out. We’re committed to doing our part, and we thank Kentuckians for doing theirs by staying off the roads when they can and expecting the unexpected if travel is required.”

As of 6 pm. ET, there are no reported blocked lanes on interstates or parkways. In McCracken County, the U.S. 45 Ohio River “Brookport” Bridge is temporarily closed (bridge with a metal driving surface that closes during extreme winter events).

On Saturday, reported incidents on state routes were minimal thanks to observations of reduced traffic. As ice set in Sunday, fallen trees temporarily closed some highways across southern and eastern portions of the state, especially where limbs were entangled in power lines.

Chainsaw crews worked to remove trees while plow trucks continued to address highways amid freezing rain, more snow to the north, and falling temperatures. Grader crews also worked to help clear routes, including secondary routes where possible.

A fleet of nearly 1,500 plow trucks will remain active to keep priority routes passable, but with updated forecasts calling for extreme cold reaching below zero lows and highs in the teens on Monday, the effectiveness of salt and other treatments will be greatly reduced.

Kentuckians should continue to limit travel as much as possible, and those who must commute should watch for refreezing, black ice, and other unexpected hazards on the road such as fallen debris or trees and stranded vehicles.

Ahead of the storm, Gov. Andy Beshear declared a [state of emergency](#), activating state resources, including Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) and the Kentucky National Guard (KYNG), to prepare and protect communities across Kentucky. Additionally, Secretary Gray issued an [official order](#) temporarily waiving hours of service and weigh station stop restrictions for motor carriers to bolster relief efforts. On Saturday, the Governor also [announced](#) the President has approved an emergency declaration for the state, making federal aid immediately available.

All executive branch state office buildings, including Driver Licensing Regional Offices, will be closed on Monday, January 26, due to inclement weather. Notifications have been issued to appointment holders and staff will attempt to contact customers to reschedule appointments. Eligible customers with a completed vision screening form may still renew their license online or by mail. More information is available [here](#).

Critical Travel Tips

Kentuckians are encouraged to continue avoiding unnecessary travel to give crews room to work as roadways will be heavily impacted. As the work week resumes bringing the potential for additional traffic, it is critical for drivers to expect the unexpected. Drivers are urged to travel with an emergency car kit, watch for black ice and fallen or low hanging debris, and know how to navigate dark traffic signals they may encounter as power outages rise across the south.

Emergency Car Kit Suggested Items for Drivers

- First aid kit
- Extra coat, gloves, and blankets or sleeping bag
- Non-perishable food and water
- Baby formula, diapers, wipes
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Portable phone chargers
- Pet food, water, leash, bowl
- Medications
- Ice scraper and jumper cables
- Shovel, and a bag of sand or litter

What To Do if Traffic Signals Are Not Working:

- Flashing yellow, proceed with caution
- Flashing red, treat as a stop sign
- No signal lights, treat as a 4-way stop

What To Do When a Downed Power Line Is on the Roadway:

- Never touch or drive over a fallen power line; report the issue to the power company.
- If a power line has fallen on your vehicle, STAY INSIDE, do not exit, and call 911.
- Assume all downed power lines are live and DO NOT attempt to move.

Visit snowky.ky.gov for snow and ice resources, like priority route maps, traffic cameras, tips and localized highway district updates. Do not call 911 for road conditions.

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Click [here](#) for a link to broll of crew response activities this weekend.

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Bill Bryant 6-7pm call in