

Standardized Roadway Condition Descriptions

COMMON DESCRIPTIONS: In order to attain a common understanding of winter road conditions, the following conditions and definitions have been established. These condition descriptions represent the predominate condition of the road being reported

- **Condition 1: Clear** - Dry/wet pavement surface is maintained at all times.

This condition represents time periods when the pavement and air temperatures are above freezing with or without precipitation. This condition may also exist when temperatures are at or below freezing and traffic is able to maintain speeds at or near posted limits. (An example would be during the clean up phase of a minor event when roads are wet and reports indicate they are freezing dry with traffic speeds returning to normal.)



- **Condition 2: Wet with Freezing Conditions** - Wet pavement surface is the general condition with air temperatures near or below freezing. There are occasional areas having snow or ice accumulations resulting from drifting, sheltering, cold spots, frozen melt-water, etc.

This condition should be utilized during periods of precipitation when air and/or pavement temperatures are at 34 degrees and are expected to drop to freezing or below freezing during the course of the storm. This condition should also be used when wet or light snow cover conditions are expected to persist for two or more hours with freezing temperatures.



- **Condition 3: Snow and/or Slush Covered** – Accumulations of loose snow or slush are regularly found on the pavement surface. Light to moderate snow cover may be present in some areas (up to 2 inches on secondary routes).

Some snow packed and/or icy conditions may be present but do not represent predominate road conditions on the interstates. Reduced travel speeds may be required due to slick road conditions. Secondary routes may have up to 2 inches of snow and/or slush accumulation.



- **Condition 4: Snow Packed / Significant Snow Cover** - The pavement surface has continuous stretches of packed snow with or without loose snow on top of packed snow and ice. Significant snow accumulations are present in some areas (2-5 in).

This condition may become prevalent during periods of heavy snowfall or on lower priority routes when conditions warrant the consolidation of resources on the highest priority snow routes. Speed limit reductions and vehicle restrictions should be considered when this becomes the predominate condition on the interstate.



- **Condition 5: Icy** – The pavement surface is predominantly covered with ice and packed snow. There may be loose snow or sleet on top of the icy or packed snow surface.

This condition may be the result of sleet, freezing rain, snow melt or refreeze. Reduced travel speeds may be necessary and motorist should be advised to limit travel or travel at significantly reduced speeds until conditions improve.



- **Condition 6: Impassable** - The road is temporarily impassable to most or all vehicles. This may be the result of severe weather (low visibility, blowing snow, etc.) or road conditions [drifting, excessive unplowed snow (5+ inches), avalanche potential or actuality, glare ice, etc.] This may be the result of severe weather (low visibility, etc.) or road conditions (drifting, excessive unplowed snow, avalanche potential or actuality, glare ice, accidents, vehicles stuck on the road, etc.).