



**STATE SAFETY OFFICE**  
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110



# **SAFETY MESSAGE 20-01**

## **Black Ice Awareness**

In the northeast, black ice proposes a particular threat to drivers. Black ice forms when water droplets freeze on roadways; the thin, slick ice gives the road a wet appearance. Drivers often don't realize they've hit black ice until their vehicle is skidding out of control. It is important for drivers to be prepared and remain aware of their surroundings.

### **Be Alert-**

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times when driving during the winter season.
- Black ice forms on surfaces below 32 F, this means the risks of black ice increase with decreased temperatures!
- Black ice is particularly common on bridges and overpasses.

### **Be Prepared-**

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Put snow tires on your vehicle to increase traction.
- Check the weather forecast before you travel and plan accordingly.
- Keep a greater distance between your vehicle and others; just because you're looking for black ice doesn't mean the car ahead of you is.
- Know what your brakes will do . . .
  - Anti-lock brakes = steady firm pressure
  - Non Anti-lock brakes = pump
- If you start to skid, steer into the skid to regain control of your vehicle.

### **Take Your Time!-**

- Accelerate and take turns slowly to remain in control of your vehicle.
- Warm up the car early to avoid rushing into work.
- Drive slowly so that you can spot black ice and direct your vehicle around it.
- Avoid using cruise control; accelerate and decelerate appropriately.
- Remember stopping distances are longer on ice.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's Driver's Training Toolbox offers a series of winter driving presentations which can assist you in conducting training. The website link can be found at:

<https://safety.army.mil/driverstrainingtoolbox>.

For more information on Winter Driving Safety Tips, visit:  
<https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Seasonal-Safety-Campaigns/All-Seasons>

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

**To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:**

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

**New York Army National Guard Safety Office Points of Contact:**

**Safety and Occupational Health Manager:**

Alicia Howard

[alicia.l.howard.mil@mail.mil](mailto:alicia.l.howard.mil@mail.mil)

(518) 786-6097

**Occupational Health Nurse:**

Valerie Schwalbach

[valerie.a.schwalbach.civ@mail.mil](mailto:valerie.a.schwalbach.civ@mail.mil)

(518) 786-4329

**Safety Specialist:**

Matthew Williams

[matthew.s.williams117.mil@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.s.williams117.mil@mail.mil)

(518) 786-6040

**Safety Specialist:**

Chuck Austin

[charles.b.austin2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:charles.b.austin2.civ@mail.mil)

(518) 786-6121

**M-Day Safety Specialists:**

MSG Jerry Peace

[jerry.l.peace.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jerry.l.peace.mil@mail.mil)