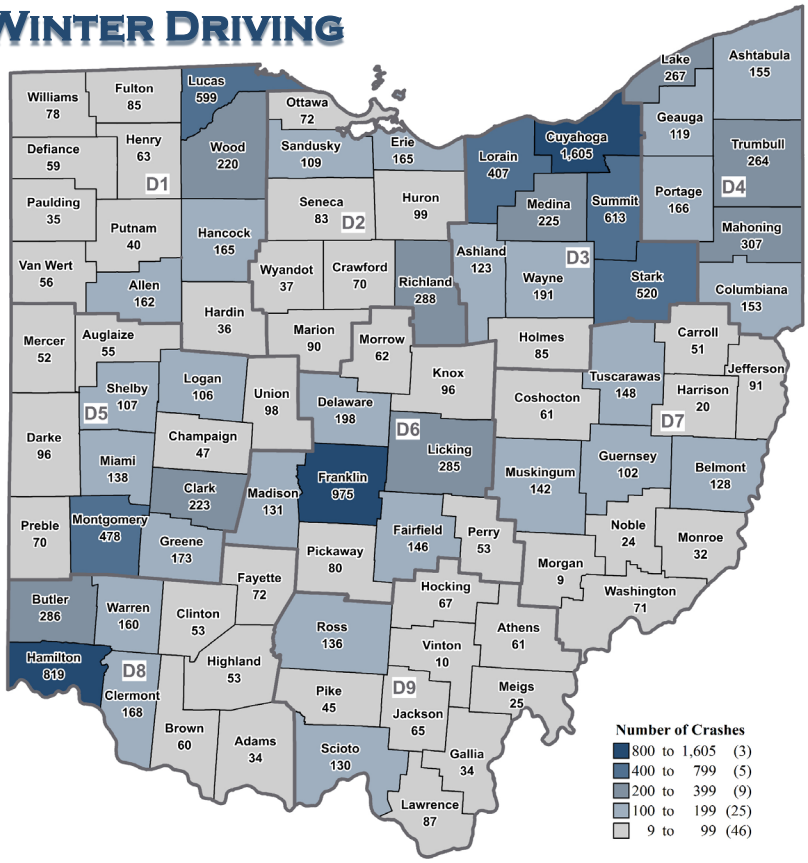
Traffic Safety Bulletin

January 2022

Winter Driving



Map and Table: December 2020 through March 2021 crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads.

OSHP District	Number of Crashes
District 1	1,598
District 2	1,013
District 3	3,769
District 4	1,431
District 5	1,643
District 6	2,026
District 7	879
District 8	1,705
District 9	660
Total	14,724

Winter Driving Crashes

- During the winter of 2020-21*, there were 14,724 crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads in Ohio, a 62% increase over the previous winter's total and a 6% decrease from the previous three winters' average. December and January saw significant increases in the number of winter driving crashes. During these two months crashes more than doubled (+107%) from the winter of 2019-20.
- Last winter, 26 fatal crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads resulted in 33 fatalities. This is an increase from the 22 crashes (+18%) and 24 fatalities (+38%) that occurred during the previous winter's months. Another 3,733 people (+50%) were injured in such crashes.
- "Unsafe Speed" by the at-fault vehicle was the reported cause of 24% of crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads. For fatal crashes, going left of center was the reason given for 26% of crashes.
- Additional crash information is available on the Ohio Statistics and Analytics for Traffic Safety (OSTATS) crash dashboard https://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/ostats.aspx

Winter Driving Tips

- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving by ensuring that your battery, cooling system, tires, wipers, and defrosters are in good condition and working properly. Click here for additional information.
- Drive slowly. Everything – accelerating, turning, braking – takes longer on snow covered roads. Give yourself time to maneuver by slowing down. Click here for more safe winter driving tips.
- Carry a winter car kit in case you get stranded. It should include, among other things, a flashlight, jumper cables, flares, a small shovel, a blanket, food and water. Click here to see a complete list.

*Winter is defined as the December through March period.