

Highway Hotline — New Highway Condition Terminology

Key Messages

- The Highway Hotline is updating its winter driving terminology.
- The new terminology will provide clear and concise road conditions to help drivers make informed decisions.
- The new primary conditions include:
 - Bare
 - Partly Covered
 - Covered
 - Travel Not Recommended
 - Closed
- The changes make our terminology more consistent with neighbouring provinces and national standards.

Questions and Answers

1. Why are you changing the terminology?

The new terminology will provide clear and concise road conditions to help drivers make informed decisions. Also, these changes are more consistent with neighbouring provinces and national standards. This will benefit drivers who travel across western provinces.

2. What are the new terms?

The new primary conditions include:

- Bare
- Partly Covered
- Covered
- Travel Not Recommended
- Closed

3. How is the new terminology better than the previous?

The new terminology is more descriptive. It will help drivers make informed decisions.

4. How did you determine the terms to use?

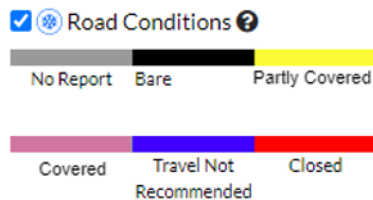
We responded to a recommendation from the provincial auditor to provide clear and concise road condition terminology for winter driving.

We reviewed the national standards from Transportation Association of Canada in selecting our terms. We also looked at what was being done in neighbouring provinces to create a more consistent experience for interprovincial travelers.

5. It looks like some of the map colours are different. Why did they change?

We changed some colours to better align with neighbouring provinces. Also, we stopped using white because it didn't show up well on the digital maps.

New terminology



Previous terminology



Poor visibility shows as a dotted line in the new terminology as well.

6. Are there cameras available so I can see the roads?

The Highway Hotline has links to more than 50 cameras all over the province. These images allow travelers to see weather conditions for themselves and make better decisions.

7. What kind of information can I find on the Saskatchewan Highway Hotline?

The Highway Hotline provides information on highway conditions, road closures, construction zones, ferries and border crossings. Maps and information are updated

four times per day or as conditions require. This information helps motorists make travel decisions such as leaving early or using an alternate route.

8. How does the ministry determine what road conditions to report?

Highway Hotline staff receive regular information from professional equipment and snowplow operators in the field across Saskatchewan's 26,500 km provincial highway network to update road conditions.

These operators rely on their training and professional experience to determine what road conditions should be reported on the Highway Hotline to ensure motorists have the most accurate information to make travel decisions.

9. How often is the Highway Hotline updated?

The Highway Hotline provides the public with up-to-date road conditions and highway driving information.

During the winter months, conditions are updated a minimum of four times a day at 7:30 am, 10 am, 3 pm and 6 pm or whenever there are known changes that affect driving conditions. For highways deemed commuter routes, the first update of the day is at 6 am.

This service is provided seven days per week, 24 hours per day from November 1 to April 15.

Conditions shown are current as of the last report. Motorists are cautioned to stay alert to changing conditions.

10. Does the Highway Hotline have a mobile app?

Yes, there is a mobile app available in the Google and Apple stores.