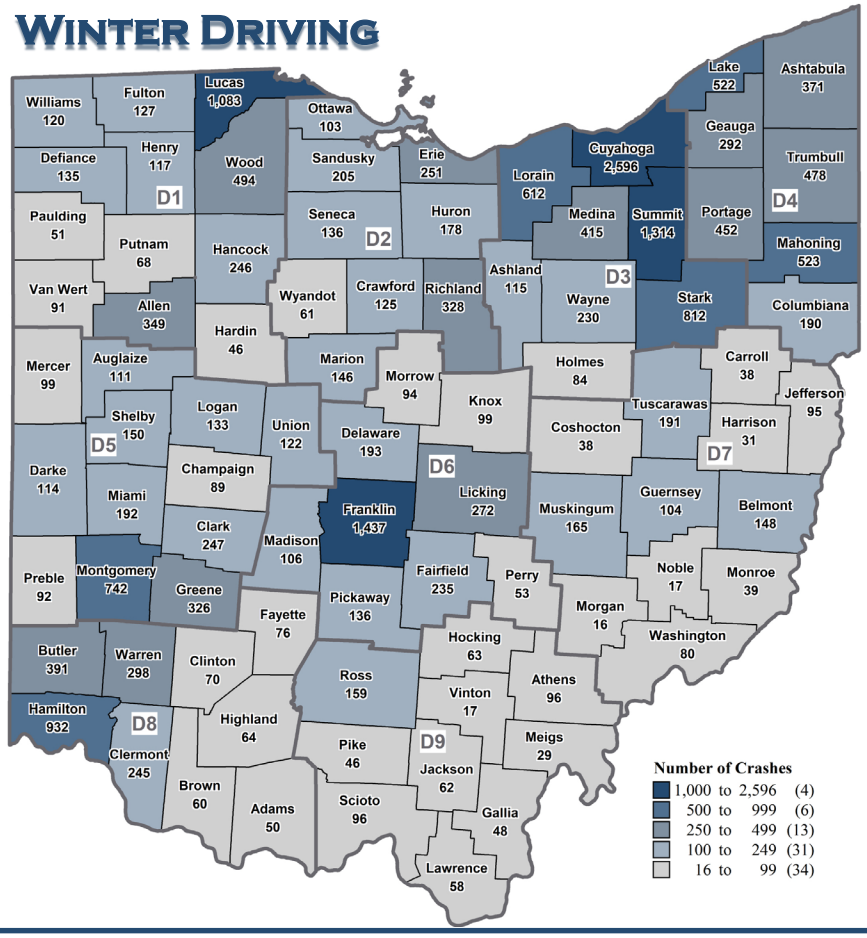
Traffic Safety Bulletin

January 2019

Winter Driving



Map and Table: December 2017 through March 2018 crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads.

OSHP District	Number of Crashes
District 1	2,927
District 2	1,533
District 3	6,178
District 4	2,828
District 5	2,417
District 6	2,625
District 7	962
District 8	2,186
District 9	674
Total	22,330

Winter Driving Crashes

- During the winter of 2017-18*, there were 22,330 crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads in Ohio, a 61% increase over the previous winter's total. January and February 2018 brought the biggest increases in crashes. January saw a 100% increase in crashes to a total of 8,640 for the month. February's crashes increased by 180% over the February 2017 total (3,727 vs. 1,331).
- Last winter, 37 fatal crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads resulted in 42 fatalities. This is a jump from the 24 crashes (+54%) and 26 fatalities (+62%) occurring during the previous winter.
- "Failure to control" a vehicle was the reported cause of 38% of crashes on snow, ice or slush covered roads. In addition, speed was a factor in 20% of these crashes.

Winter Driving Tips

- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving by ensuring that your battery, cooling system, tires, wipers, and defrosters are all in good condition and working properly. Click here for more on preparing your car for winter driving.
- 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, a cell phone with car charger. Click here to see a complete list of items to include in a winter driving kit.

*Winter is defined as the December through March period.