MEDIA RELEASE

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MOTORISTS WARNED TO DRIVE FOR CONDITIONS AND TO LOOK OUT FOR BLACK ICE AND SNOW

Roads and Maritime Services is reminding motorists travelling in the Central Tablelands area of NSW to take extra care during wintry conditions with a public awareness campaign starting today warning about the dangers of black ice and snow.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads Andrew Gee said the Western Winter Weather Ice and Snow Campaign aimed to reduce the incidence of weather related crashes on western roads.

“During the past three winters, 15 people are reported to have been injured in crashes on western NSW roads where icy conditions were a factor,” Mr Gee said.

“Bathurst and Cabonne local government areas top the list for these crash numbers followed closely by Lithgow, Blayney and Oberon, although many ice related incidents are unreported especially where only one vehicle is involved.

“In the Central Tablelands area during the winter months, ice and sometimes even snow can be a significant issue for motorists and can occur with little warning.”

Mr Gee said ‘black ice’ refers to a smooth layer of frozen condensation on the road surface which is transparent and almost impossible to see.

“The first indication there is black ice on the road is usually when the driver loses control of the vehicle and it starts to slide,” Mr Gee said.

“Black ice can remain in shaded or low-lying areas even on fine days. Bridges are also high risk locations with cold air circulating beneath and above the road surface.

“Motorists should be aware these conditions are usually worst between 11pm and 11am.

“As part of the awareness campaign, which will run until the end of July, electronic message signs will be placed along known western roads where snow and black ice have been problematic in the past to provide motorists with up-to-date information about the weather and road conditions,” Mr Gee said.


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