



## Deadly Indonesian Airplane Crash

An Indonesian airplane has crashed into the Java Sea in late October, only moments after taking off from the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia. Lion Air Flight 610, bound for Pangkal Pinang, requested to return to the airport shortly after takeoff, but communication was lost soon thereafter. All 189 on board are believed to have died.

According to air traffic data, the plane's altitude fluctuated significantly before plunging 5,000 feet, with enough force to disintegrate parts of the plane's metal fixtures.

Lion Air, a fast-growing low-cost airline, has a prior history of air incidents, including a 2013 crash that thankfully left zero deaths. Initial analysis of the Lion Air Flight 610 crash suggests that the plane

may have been operating with sensors or computers that were not reading correct parameter values. The pilots seemed to have struggled to override an automatic system that was pointing the nose of the plane down, suggesting that the automatic system may have been working improperly.



Approximate flight path of Lion Air 610. Image source: Reuters

Source: [NPR Illinois](#), [The New York Times](#), [K5 News](#).

## School Bus-Related Crashes Prompt Caution

Three Indiana children on October 30. Another one in Mississippi the very next day. And yet another on November 1st in Pennsylvania.

These children were either waiting for the bus or crossing the street to board one when they were struck and killed by drivers who failed to stop for the bus or failed to stop for children on the road. Other children were also injured in these and other events during the same week. Not stopping for a school bus picking up and dropping off students is against the law nationwide, but there is an epidemic of drivers disregarding the rules and passing school buses even when the stop arm is extended.



A group of cars are pulled over for passing a stopped school bus with its stop arm out. Footage source: Monica Douglas/Facebook

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reiterated the urgency for drivers to take school bus stops seriously. A viral video in which Pasco County, Florida, sheriff officers stop a group of cars that failed to stop for a school bus picking up students gained positive attention by parents and law enforcement agencies.

Cameras can be equipped onto school buses to monitor whether vehicles pass improperly, as was done for buses in Amboy School District 272. There, three vehicles were caught on camera passing school buses at bus stops within the first week.

Source: [Patch](#), [WFIS Tampa Bay](#), [The Amboy News](#).



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### Last Month's Traffic Digest October, 2018\*

Total Crashes: 16,756  
9,971 **fewer** than normal†

Total fatalities: 78  
14 **fewer** than normal†

\* Provisional, subject to change  
Source: IDOT

† Based on 2012–16 five-year means

### NEWS THIS MONTH...

- Post-Thanksgiving Snow Brings Traffic Nightmare* 2
- IDOT and Habitats: An Unlikely Partnership* 2
- Winter Road Hazards Strike Early* 3
- Joliet Extends Truck Enforcement Hours* 3
- IDOT Holds Inaugural Traffic Safety Summit* 4
- Statewide Holiday Traffic Enforcement* 4

### Chicago Commemorates Traffic Crash Victims

In 2017, 132 lives were lost related to traffic crashes in Chicago, including 46 pedestrians struck by vehicles. To commemorate these 132 individuals, shoes were placed in the Federal Plaza in Chicago, one pair for each victim. This memorial is in conjunction with World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, recognized worldwide each year in mid-November.

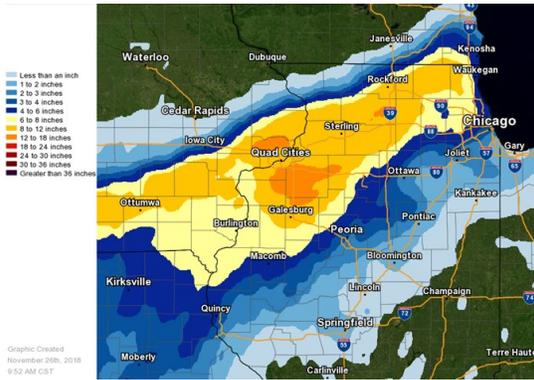
Chicago observes an average rate of five traffic injuries per day and an average of one traffic fatality every three days. The city developed a Vision Zero Chicago program in June 2017 to combat the high rate of traffic injuries and deaths. Additionally, awareness programs in the past, including bicycle awareness and the introduction of the Dutch Reach method of opening doors were also conducted to reduce traffic crashes.

An analysis by Vision Zero Chicago revealed that corridors of low income areas are most prone to traffic fatalities. A disproportionately large number of pedestrian victims are aged 50 or older.

Source: [WBBM. Vision Zero Chicago.](#)



## Post-Thanksgiving Blizzard Brings Traffic Nightmare



Observed snowfall from the November 2018 blizzard. Source: National Weather Service Central Illinois

It was only the weekend after Thanksgiving, but it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, at least in the northern half of Illinois.

Nearly a foot of snow accumulated in localized areas, including a 13.1-inch snowfall report from Bull Valley at 6:28 AM on November 26th. Additionally, overnight wind gusts of over 50 mph were reported in the Chicago area. Trees were downed, and power

Source: [WGN \[1\] \[2\]](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Getting Around Illinois](#), [NWS Chicago](#), [CBS Local](#).

outages were reported throughout the region.

With the snowfall and the strong winds, the National Weather Service issued a Blizzard Warning for much of northern Illinois, urging drivers to refrain from driving in the afternoon and evening hours.

Based on official observations from O'Hare International Airport (ORD), this storm is one of the most intense November snow events in Chicago's observed weather history. Over 800 flights in the area have been cancelled, including over 700 from ORD. Meanwhile in Rockford, the snowstorm was ranked the worst in recorded history, and the city ranked this past month as the snowiest recorded November ever.

In addition to several road closures due to the snow or due to traffic crashes during the snow, several school districts decided to cancel Monday classes, and some county government offices were also closed.

## IDOT and Habitats: Unique Alliance

Traditionally, all the grass along the highways and in the medians were cleanly mowed, but recent focus on environmental conservation and restoration in the state has led to the startup of a unique program within the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

IDOT's Operation Habitat was launched in the summer of 2017 to find ways to restore the prairie habitat of Illinois near public roadways. The monarch butterfly, critical in the ability to pollinate and produce much of the fruits and vegetables that we eat, has sharply declined in population as prairie lands converted to cropland, urban areas, and roads.

Operation Habitat collaborates with environmental agencies and organizations to restore the supply of milkweed, a plant that monarch butterflies feed on. By mowing only the grass within 15 feet from the roadway and allowing the rest to grow, Illinois hopes that the increased native wildlife will help to restore monarch butterfly populations.

Source: [Illinois Department of Transportation Monarch Page.](#)



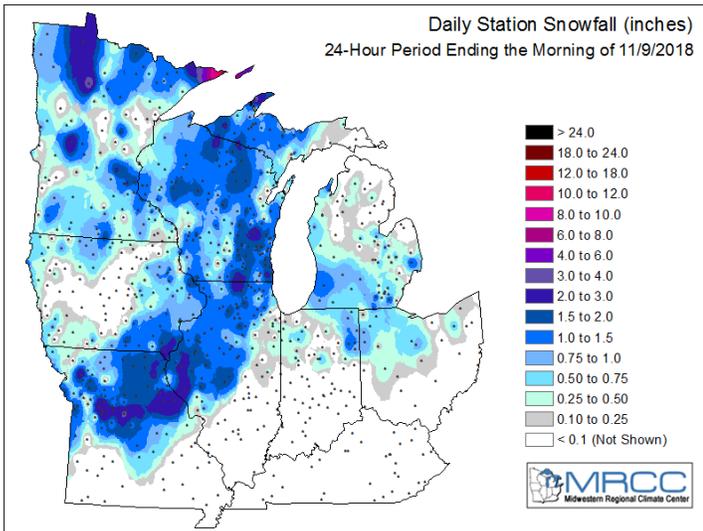
Workers monitor pollinator-friendly plants at the Illinois Department of Transportation headquarters. Image Source: Illinois Department of Transportation

The increased native wildlife will help to restore monarch butterfly populations.

# Winter Road Hazards Strike Early

The week of November 11th was Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois. The National Weather Service in Lincoln (ILX) offered several tips to stay safe not only while driving but also as winter weather strikes this season at home.

Meanwhile, this November opened with an early brush of snow across the northern half of Illinois, with some localized observations of nearly two inches in Lake County by the morning of the ninth. Furthermore, central southern Illinois observed their early blast of snowfall on the 15th, with localized reports of eight inches of snow. According to the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC), the first snow of the season typically occurs around mid-November for the northern half of Illinois, while the southern half typically sees their first snow between early- and mid-December.



Observed snowfall for the early-November snow event.  
Image source: Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Source: [NWS](#), [MRCC](#), [WGN](#), [Eisenberg and Warner, 2005](#).

### Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight & Extra Batteries <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Shovel <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Scraper with Brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/Sleeping Bag <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Perishable Food (Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water <input type="checkbox"/> Booster Cables	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothing (Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots) <input type="checkbox"/> Sand/Kitty Litter (Used for Traction) <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone & Charger <input type="checkbox"/> Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects
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Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist  
Image source: National Weather Service Central Illinois

According to a study by Eisenberg and Warner (2005), the first snow day of the season statistically tends to observe more fatal crashes than a typical non-first snow day of the season. On the other hand, the first snow day of the season tends to observe approximately the same number of injury or damage-only crashes compared to a non-first snow day of the season. This dichotomy is most pronounced for drivers aged greater than 65.

In central Illinois, snow is not the only concern. There is a region stretching from Pike County through Ashkum and Vermilion Counties where freezing rain falls more frequently than any other region in Illinois, according to climatological records. This area is more susceptible to freezing rain mainly because of the latitude.

ILX offered resources to keep drivers up to date with the latest weather forecasts and roadway conditions, including graphical and text road reports from Illinois and from neighboring states. The National Weather Service recommends drivers to include preparing the car with a first-aid kit and extra supplies. These items may come in handy if a vehicle becomes stranded on the road during a winter storm.

Visit [weather.gov/ilx/winter-prep](http://weather.gov/ilx/winter-prep) for a full rundown of safety precautions to take this winter.

## Joliet Extends Truck Enforcement Hours

### Traffic Safety and Business

With an increase in truck traffic in the city, Joliet is extending truck enforcement hours to the weekends. While trucks usually map their routes properly using designated truck routes as per city ordinance, each occurrence of a truck violating the ordinance creates a headache for local commuters.

The Joliet Police Department can charge trucks up to \$30,000 in fines if they are caught using a non-designated truck route. In the past 14 months, the city has managed to issue many citations to violators,

Source: [Patch](#).

totaling up to \$2.2 million in fines.

Truck routes are engineered to withstand the weight of heavy trucks and tractor-trailers. Conversely, roadways not designated as truck routes are prone to damage or deterioration if trucks use them. Joliet implemented truck permits and truck routes in 2015.

Truckers can visit the Joliet Police Department's [page](#) on procedures and sources for truck permits and route mapping.



# In the Spotlight! TRAFFIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

## IDOT Holds Inaugural Traffic Safety Summit

### TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT: PARTNERING FOR **ZERO DEATHS**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) hosted its inaugural Traffic Safety Summit to gather safety experts, law enforcement, and local governments to address the issue of traffic safety.

Organizations and agencies from not only throughout Illinois, but also from out of state, joined IDOT to discuss how Illinois can reduce the number of fatalities on the road. The past two years observed over 1,000 motor vehicle fatalities, and the fatalities have been on an increasing trend since 2014. This November ends with over 930 fatalities since January 1st, 2018, according to IDOT's provisional fatality data.

The meeting acknowledged that texting while driving in vehicles is an increasingly predominant threat to roadway safety. Additionally, a new wave of appreciation is in sight for roundabouts as a means of facilitating cautious driving at intersections.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation, one of the summit's attendees and presenters, emphasized the value in collaborating between the education, engineering, law enforcement, and public health sectors to address traffic safety, as they do in the North Star State. Their strategies seem to be working; Minnesota traffic fatalities are on a decreasing trend since 2015.

#### Year-To-Date Fatal Crash Snapshot

November 28, 2018

869 Fatal Crashes\*  
**948 Fatalities\***

On this day last year:

920 Fatal Crashes\*  
**1,005 Fatalities\***

**57 Below**  
Fatalities change

\*Provisional, subject to change  
Source: IDOT

Source: [Illinois News Network](#), [My Journal Courier](#), [Illinois Department of Transportation](#).



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## Statewide Holiday Traffic Enforcement

The Illinois State Police (ISP) are conducting their Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to enforce traffic laws and to reduce traffic violation in preparation for the holiday season.

With Thanksgiving weekend and the subsequent holiday shopping dominating the street life of the last two months of the calendar year, ISP troopers are conducting traffic details until December 3. They also focused on seat belt use and driving under the influence around the Thanksgiving holidays with the "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns November 16th to the 26th.

Meanwhile, traffic enforcement also increased for the Thanksgiving weekend for several local police departments throughout the state. Traffic in Chicago

in preparation for the Thanksgiving weekend tends to be the greatest between 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM on Wednesday. In fact, a record number of travelers is expected in Illinois this Thanksgiving.

The Lockport Police Department already released their enforcement numbers, reporting that over 60 citations were made, including 29 seat belt violations, eight speeding violations, and eight distracted driving violations, during their ten-day enforcement period of the "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns.

Last year, 15 people died in traffic crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday in Illinois. The National Safety Council predicted a nationwide total of over 400 deaths from traffic crashes during the same time period this year.

Source: [FOX Illinois](#), [Chicago Tribune](#) [1] [2], [Daily Chronicle](#), [River Bender](#), [NW Herald](#), [WNIU](#) and [WNIJ](#), [Patch](#).