# [***Slick roads foul travel for revelers;***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47K8-R6Y0-00BT-B3B8-00000-00&context=1516831) [***Icy conditions cause many accidents Tuesday, and snow is on the way.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47K8-R6Y0-00BT-B3B8-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

As yet more sleet and freezing rain coated southern Maine, stepping out on New Year's Eve proved difficult, and even dangerous.

Travel conditions, poor throughout the day and early evening, were expected to worsen overnight, just as people were heading home from New Year's Eve parties.

"We're hoping that people won't be caught by surprise out there," said Kathy Beem, dispatch supervisor for the Maine State Police. "Some people had a hard time in the morning."

Police throughout York and Cumberland counties reported numerous accidents Tuesday, most of them minor, caused by icy streets and sidewalks that made even routine maneuvers difficult.

For several hours in the morning, Gorham police were scrambling from one accident to another along Route 22. In all, about a dozen cars went off the road there before 10 a.m.

In one accident, a 36-foot-long box truck carrying lumber supplies collided with a Pontiac Grand Prix. Remarkably, the drivers of both vehicles escaped serious injury, as did the 2-year-old girl strapped in a safety seat in the back of the car.

"Without that seat, the child would have been hurt," said Wayne Coffin, a Gorham police officer. "She was strapped in nice and tight. It worked well."

During the afternoon and into the evening Tuesday, state police received more than 250 ***cell phone*** calls from drivers reporting cars off the road. None of the accidents proved to be serious.

Shortly before 5 p.m., the driver of a tractor-trailer truck skidded on the ice and rolled over at Exit 9 of Interstate 295 in Falmouth. No one was injured and the truck was not badly damaged, police said.

"When the forecast calls for this stuff, it helps to remind people to drive cautiously," said Beem, the state police dispatcher.

The treacherous conditions were the result of sleet, rain and freezing temperatures, an unfortunate combination that, according to the National Weather Service, was expected to continue through the night.

"We had just enough rain to be a pain Tuesday morning, enough to cause a lot of problems on the roads," said Eric Sinsabaugh, a meteorologist. "In Portland, it was right around freezing all day, which kept things slippery."

Sinsabaugh expected another band of rain before midnight, adding a layer of ice to the already slick streets. There's a chance of snow late today and again Friday, he said.

"It's that time of year," Sinsabaugh said.

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