

Black Ice

Thin, new ice on fresh or salt water that appears dark in color because of its transparency. Also refers to thin, transparent ice on road surfaces.

www.weather.com/glossary/b.html

Thin, new ice that forms on fresh water or dew covered surfaces; it is common on roadways during the fall and early winter and appears "black" because of its transparency.

www.wrh.noaa.gov/spokane/outreach/glossary.htm

A thin coating of ice (as from freezing mist) on a road or sidewalk; nearly invisible but very hazardous

www.cogsci.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/webwn

These are just a few definitions of what black ice is. This is very hazardous driving 4 wheelers, and even more so on our motorcycles.

From Mn. DOT

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/newsrels/2004/01/blackice.html>

Black ice can be one of the most dangerous conditions on winter roads," said District Engineer Jim Swanson. "It is almost invisible and can catch drivers off guard," he added. Black ice is clear and appears black because the dark asphalt surface underneath shows through. It can form on heavily congested highways from auto emissions, but other roads are susceptible including those in shaded areas, near lakes and rivers, in tunnels and on overpasses.

Drivers can increase safety by observing the following tips:

- Be aware that black ice is almost invisible.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and tunnels and in early morning when the air temperature is rising faster than the pavement temperature.
- Never brake while driving on ice. Applying pressure to your brakes while on ice will cause a vehicle to skid. Brake only during

your approach.

- Keep your distance. The distance needed to stop on ice is twice as long as under normal driving circumstances. Keep at least a three-car distance from the vehicle directly in front of you.

Black ice forms when the air temperature is warmer than pavement, which causes moisture to rapidly freeze and create a thin, transparent layer of ice on the roadway. It can be neutralized with salting and sanding. However, drivers should be aware that salt loses its effectiveness at about 15 degrees and colder.

Folks, whether you're out in your cars & trucks, or sneaking in the winter ride on the motorcycle, please be aware of conditions that cause black ice. I don't have to tell you how fast you'll find yourself on your rear if you brake, steer, or maneuver a curve on black ice without proper caution.