

ROAD SAFETY IN TARANAKI



TARANAKI'S RISK PROFILE

**Narrow
and winding
roads**

**Road
works**

**Black-ice
on the road
surface
which
may cause
skidding**

**Potholes /
corrugations
and other
poorly
maintained
roads**

**Loose
gravel which
may cause
skidding**

**Livestock on
the road**

**Sharp corners
with no warning
signs**

**Surface
flooding**

**Slippery road
surfaces due to
rain following a
long dry spell**

**Seasonal heavy/
slow travelling
farm equipment
on narrow roads**

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Checks should be made to confirm that windscreen wipers and demister systems are functioning correctly.



Driving during periods of heavy rain, fog, or low cloud requires extra diligence and an obligation by the driver to drive to the conditions.



POOR VISIBILITY CONDITIONS

If driving in rain, fog, storms or if visibility is impaired:

- ▶ Slow down. Increase the distance between your vehicle and traffic in front of you.
- ▶ Ensure headlights are on (low beam) and take corners carefully and smoothly. High beams will only be reflected and actually impair visibility even more
- ▶ Listen for traffic you cannot see
- ▶ Use wipers and demisters as necessary for maximum visibility
- ▶ Use the left edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide
- ▶ Be patient. Do not pass lines of traffic
- ▶ Watch out for vehicles which have stopped
- ▶ Look for a safe place to pull off the roadway
- ▶ Do not stop on a highway or heavily travelled road. If your car stalls or becomes disabled, turn on hazard lights
- ▶ Be aware that in reduced visibility conditions, drivers tend to follow the tail lights of vehicles in front of them and may end up driving too close. In these cases, pull over to allow them to pass or double the distance you are travelling behind other vehicles

FLOODING & STORMS

If a Civil Defense Warning or Emergency has been declared, be aware of the following:

- ▶ Rivers / creeks that are subject to flash-flooding
- ▶ Potential slips when driving in hill country
- ▶ Driving during high winds is not advised, however if required under extenuating circumstances, then reduced speed is required.

BLACK ICE

- ▶ Black ice often forms after a light rain when the road surface is at zero degrees Celsius or lower.
- ▶ The water quickly freezes onto the road and as it usually doesn't have any bubbles, the ice becomes practicably invisible.
- ▶ It is most likely to form in sheltered or shaded areas of the roadway under trees or beside high walls.

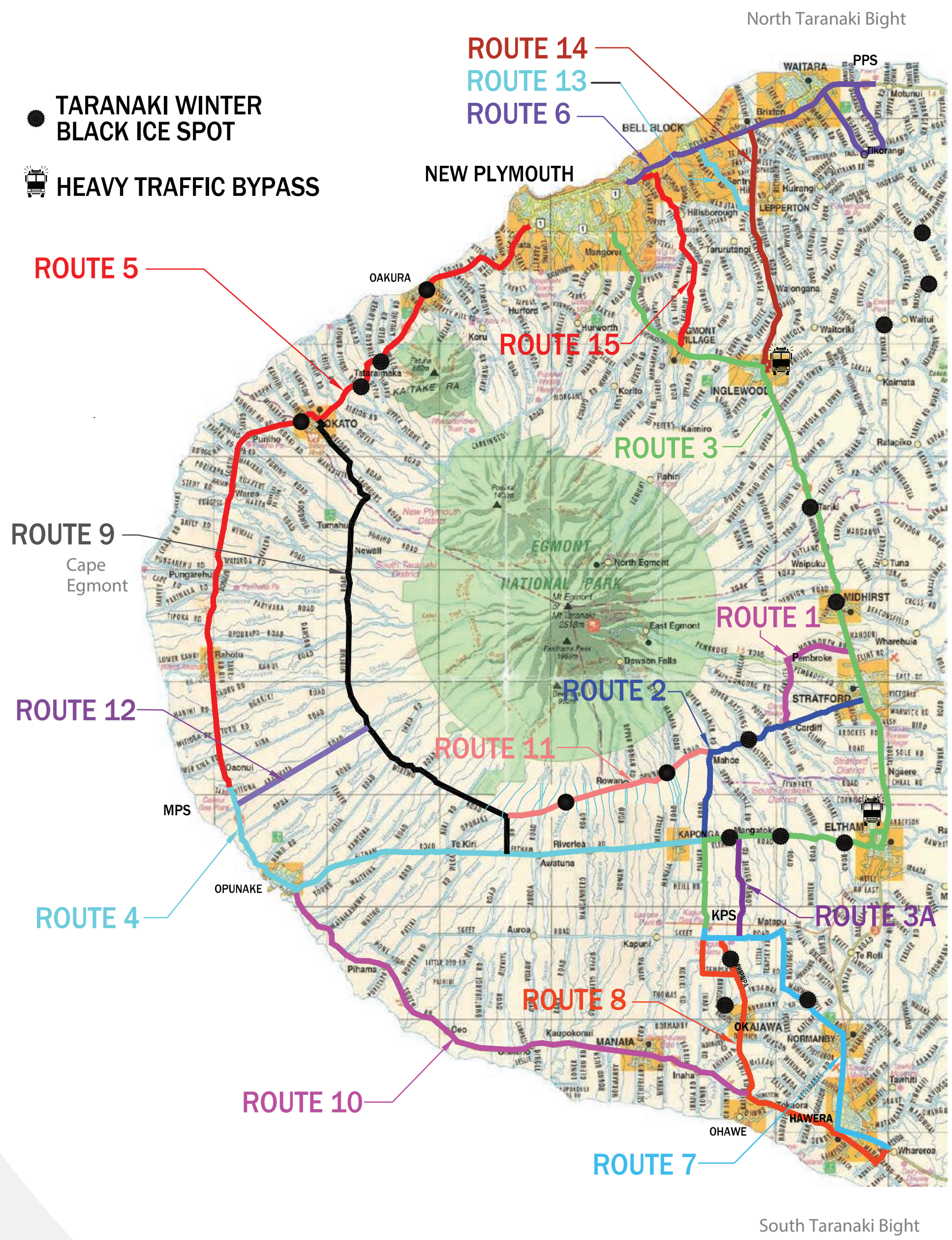
BLACK ICE

WHAT SHOULD I DO ON THE ROAD?

- ▶ **Drive slower than you normally would** – it only takes a split second to lose control in wet or icy conditions.
- ▶ **Avoid sudden braking or turning movements** that could cause you to skid.
- ▶ **Accelerate smoothly and brake gently.**
- ▶ Use your highest gear when travelling uphill and your lowest downhill.
- ▶ For vehicles without anti-skid braking systems, to avoid skidding or sliding **pump the brake pedal** in short rapid bursts rather than pressing long and hard.
- ▶ **Drive at a safe travelling distance** because it takes longer to stop on slippery roads. In winter, especially in poor weather, double the two-second rule and leave a safe distance between you and the car you're following.
- ▶ When travelling in fog, rain or snow, **drive with your lights dipped** for increased safety.



TARANAKI TRAVEL ROUTES



WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK

- ▶ Be aware of the potential for livestock and other animals to enter the roadway. Scan sides of roads for stock; if an animal is on the road, brake slowly, sound the horn and flash the headlights.
- ▶ Some of these animals may include local wildlife or there may be stock that wanders onto roadways from time to time, e.g., cattle and sheep.
- ▶ Remember that striking a small animal may be safer than a violent swerve of the vehicle.
- ▶ If an animal is impacted, ensure that the vehicle is safe to drive before proceeding and notify the landowner or relevant client or local environmental agency (if required).



ROAD WORKS

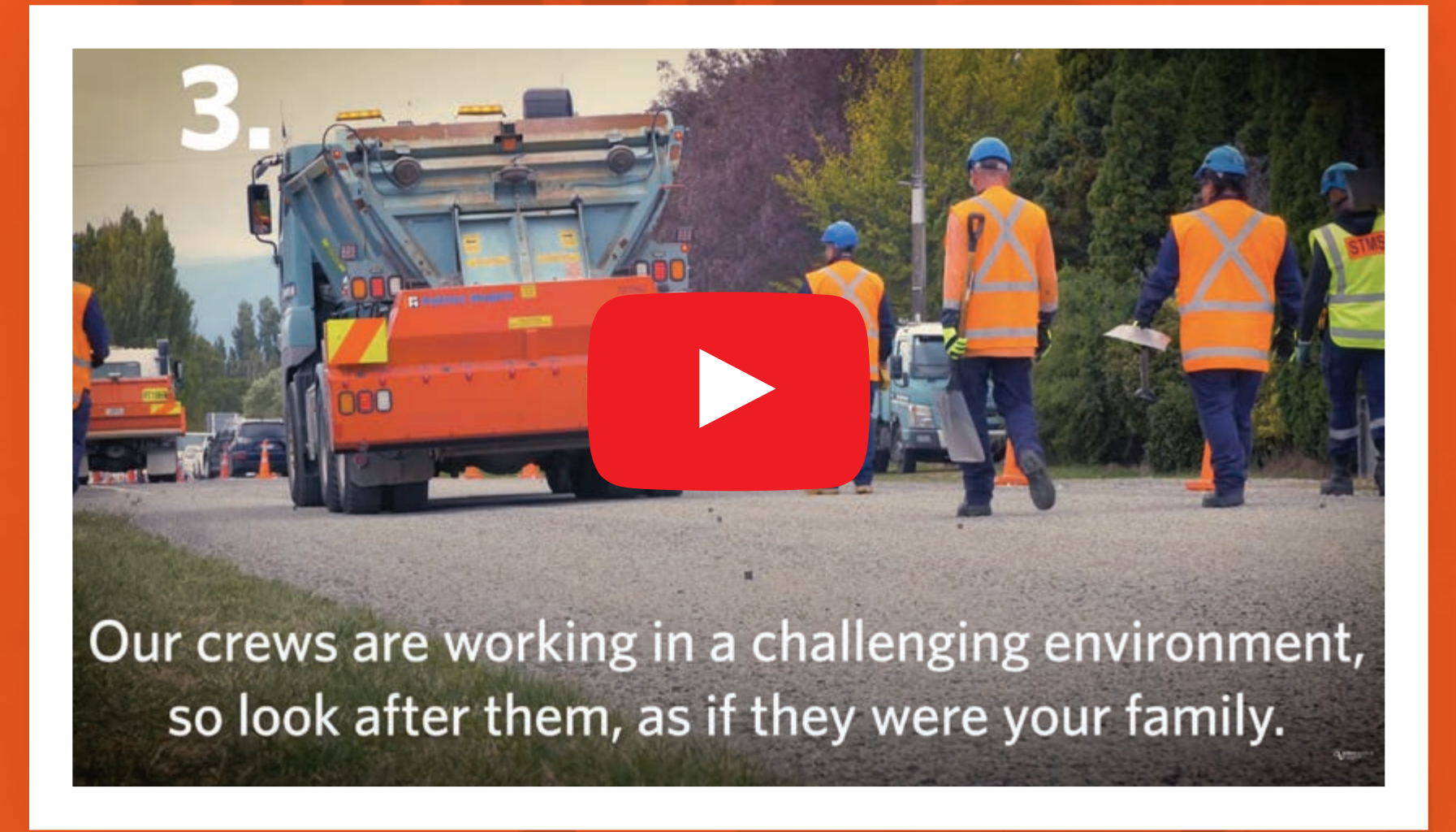
Taranaki is subject to regular road maintenance and upgrades. Information is available via the Waka Kotahi (NZTA) website on the location and duration of works.

There is also a journey planner which can identify any scheduled works or potential delays if you are intending to travel out of the region.



When encountering road works:

- ▶ **Follow** the posted speed limits
- ▶ **Be patient**
- ▶ **Be vigilant** for workers on foot and moving machinery
- ▶ **Be aware** of areas with no seal



➔ https://youtu.be/pAV3pT6Y_SM

JOURNEY MANAGEMENT



➞ www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/journey-planner



➞ <https://journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/>

ROUTINE JOURNEYS

Routine Journeys are trips associated with shorter distances and through familiar terrain.

Daily journeys between residence / accommodation and the work site are deemed to be routine journeys.

Understanding of the local risk profile and of any identified hazards associated with these journeys should be provided to drivers.



NON-ROUTINE JOURNEYS

Non-routine journeys are trips associated with greater distances through unfamiliar terrain, area or routes, or non-routine risk exposure and will require full journey management.

For example, non-routine trips may include journeys conducted on roads outside the limits of a city, town or site, where the driver may not be familiar with the area and driving during the hours of darkness.

- ▶ A non-routine journey is considered to be one where its duration exceeds 4 hours.

- ▶ If a non-routine journey is to be undertaken, consider the following:

- ▶ Discuss the need for the journey with your Supervisor or Person in Charge (PIC) and explore all other options to achieve the desired outcome without involving the driving of a vehicle. Journey's utilising vehicles will only be used as a last resort.

- ▶ If it has been determined that road travel is the only option, classify the journey as either Routine or Non-routine.
- ▶ If a vehicle journey is classified as non-routine, complete a Journey Management Plan.



STATE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

SH3 Waitara to Bell Block



➔ <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh3-waitara-to-bell-block/>

SH43 Forgotten World Highway



➔ <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh43-forgotten-world-highway/>

Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger



➔ <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/awakino-gorge-to-mt-messenger-programme/>

Ongoing Road Maintenance

- ▶ State Highway 4, Taumarunui
- ▶ State Highway 3, Awakino Gorge
- ▶ State Highway 3, Tongapōrutu
- ▶ State Highway Piopio
- ▶ State Highway 43, Herlihy Bluff



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Drive Safe!

