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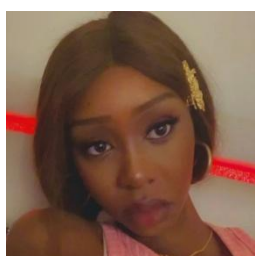
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Cracks in the Road



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Potholes may seem minor, but they are a serious issue that affect drivers' safety, travel time, and vehicle costs.

Potholes are holes or cracks that form in the road when water gets into the pavement, turns to ice, and expands. When the temperature rises, and the ice melts, a cavity is left in the road that collapses as cars drive over it.

Potholes can be a greater risk to student drivers because they are still learning how to react to sudden road hazards. A sudden change on the road due to avoiding a pothole could lead to an accident.

Prati Mangar, a former Wilson High School student, states, "Potholes make driving slower, more stressful, and less safe. They often force drivers to slow down or carefully drive around them to avoid damaging tires, wheels, or suspension."

When a vehicle is damaged by a pothole, Fadian, an agent from GEICO Insurance's claim department, states that, "Drivers should contact their insurance company right away, especially if the car is no longer safe to drive. Repair costs can vary depending on the type of vehicle and how bad the damage is."

This safety issue has gained the attention of the New York State senator Jeremy Cooney, he recently proposed Bill S3276 – making the state responsible for pothole damage claims year-round instead of during only certain months.

The new law would make the city responsible for car repairs due to potholes, helping drivers with repair costs according to NYsenateGov.

To stay safe with bad road conditions drivers should keep a close eye on the road, distance themselves from other vehicles, and reduce speed during poor weather in order to stay safe when roads are not yet fixed.