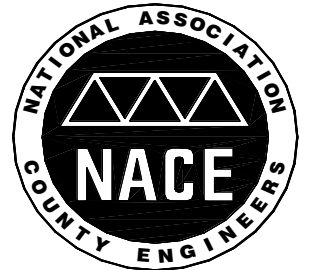


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# *IOWA COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **GPS Navigation Pitfalls**

**Posted on: May 16, 2017**

As more drivers use GPS based navigation aids to travel from point of departure to their destination, they sometimes rely too uncritically on what the devices tell them to do.

Iowa's County Engineers remind rural travelers to always pay attention to the character and condition of the roads and bridges that the navigation software tells them to use. Computers see all roads as equally usable, regardless of surface type and aren't aware if a bridge is posted or a road is closed. This can lead to extra travel, a need for roadside assistance or even the loss of a bridge.

Recent GPS mishaps have occurred in various ways. One county reported that a couple followed their 'Navi' instructions to the letter, drove past the road closed ahead warnings, looked puzzled when they reached the actual barricades, turned around, and headed back to town to try again – three times in a row – before they took the detour. In other cases, the shortest route determined by the navigation software unfortunately included a stretch of Class B, earth surfaced, road – which turned out to be too muddy to traverse in a passenger car. And there's been at least one case where a trucker was directed – by GPS – to try to cross a load restricted bridge with a full load. In that case, the bridge collapsed before he got all the way across.

So Iowa's County Engineers want to remind citizens using Iowa's rural secondary roads: use your GPS to find your way around, but remember to check whether the roads and bridges along the path actually are suitable for use by your vehicle before entering them.

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Contact: [News@iceasb.org](mailto:News@iceasb.org)