

Driving in Winter Weather

Preparation for winter driving takes place long before the weather gets bad.

Keep the vehicle in good repair at all times, be certain that everything works:

1. Rear Defroster
2. Battery, cold weather drains the power from a battery
3. Check that the vehicle has antifreeze appropriate for the temperatures in your area.
4. Check your wipers; is the windshield washer reservoir filled with freeze-resistant solution
5. Check tires and tire pressure
6. Keep gas tank at least half full. You will need plenty of fuel to run the heater if you get stuck someplace and need to wait for assistance. If running the engine to keep warm-KEEP THE TAIL PIPE CLEAR and the window opened slightly to allow fumes to escape from the vehicle.
7. Keep your cell phone full charged so it can be used in the event of an emergency
8. Keep an emergency kit in the vehicle. Snow brush, flashlight, sand or kitty litter for traction, shovel, ice scraper, bright piece of material to use for an emergency

Prepare Yourself:

1. Dress appropriately for the weather, don't assume you will be warm and cozy in the vehicle and won't have to get out.
2. Be aware of road conditions and weather reports before venturing out. Use the TV and radio to keep up to date on what you can expect on the roads now and during the span of time you will be out.

Before Driving the Vehicle:

1. Clean your vehicle off completely. All snow, ice as much as possible, will be removed from the entire vehicle to prevent snow blowing over your windows as well as onto other vehicles. Don't forget the headlights and tail lights.
2. Put on your seatbelt and turn on the headlights.
3. Use your heater/defroster to keep your windows clear

Driving: The main hazards of winter driving are slippery surfaces and reduced visibility.

1. Drive slowly and keep plenty of distance between your vehicle and the other drivers; this allows room for stopping.
2. Bridge decks, shaded areas are prone to be icy. Watch for Black Ice in areas with run offs; this ice is the same color as the road and very difficult to see beforehand.
3. If you do skid, don't hit the brakes. Ease off the gas and steer slightly in the direction of the skid until you gain control
4. If you do have any emergency use the and in the kit you have in the vehicle to see if you can get enough traction to move your vehicle. If you are disabled, tie a piece of brightly colored material to the antenna or raise the hood of the vehicle. Use your cell phone to call for help.
5. Stay off the phone and concentrate on driving