



5 Minute Safety Talk



Proud Member

Winter Driving: Take it

SLOW

Driving in the winter can be harrowing, especially if there is snow, sleet, hail or ice. Although there tend to be fewer traffic fatalities during the winter months, there are more crashes, and the crashes that occur tend to be more serious.

If employees heed a few simple tips, it can help ensure safe trips during the winter.

Check the Weather Before You Go

If the weather is frigid, you're going to want to warm up the car before you drive it. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in an enclosed area, such as a garage. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that a car running in an attached garage is never safe, even with the garage door open.

If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible. But if you must travel, make sure you share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave.

Clean all your sensors before you drive, including backup or blind-spot monitoring camera lenses. If it snowed the night before, make sure to brush off your car – even the roof – before you take off. Remember to slow down and take your time.

Understand What Your Car Can Do

Technologies available in many cars today can be particularly useful in winter weather. Some of the more useful features for inclement weather include:

- **Adaptive headlights**, which move side to side as the vehicle turns
- **Anti-lock brakes**, which help prevent wheels from locking and allow the driver to steer safely
- **Electronic stability control**, which works automatically to help the driver maintain control of the car during hard steering maneuvers
- **Traction control**, which helps your wheels gain traction on slippery surfaces
- **Temperature warning**, which alerts you when outside temperatures are at or below freezing

MyCarDoesWhat? is a campaign from the National Safety Council and the University of Iowa to help educate drivers on dozens of new vehicle safety technologies. Visit MyCarDoesWhat.org for more information about these and other safety assistance technologies.

Prepare Your Car for Winter

Besides checking the weather, it's important to have a mechanic check the condition of the following vehicle systems before heading out on the road:

- Ignition
- Brakes
- Wiring
- Hoses and fan belts
- Spark plugs
- Air, fuel and emissions filters, and PCV valve
- Distributor
- Battery
- Tire wear and air pressure
- Antifreeze level and freeze line



Visit nsc.org/members for more safety tips

Don't Leave Home Without These

In an emergency situation, in addition to a full tank of gas and fresh antifreeze, the National Safety Council recommends having these with you at all times:

- Properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod jack
- Shovel
- Jumper cables
- Tow and tire chains
- Bag of salt or cat litter for better tire traction or to melt snow
- Tool kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Reflective triangles or flares
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Windshield cleaner
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Scissors and string or cord
- Nonperishable, high-energy foods like unsalted, canned nuts, dried fruits and hard candy
- Blankets, mittens, socks and hats

Winter road trips – even short ones – are a great way to celebrate with family and friends. Being prepared can ensure a safe and happy time is had by all. It's all about choices – if in doubt don't drive.



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