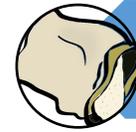


## WINTER DRIVING SUGGESTIONS from the Office of Safety and Security

## Winter Survival Kit

- For optimal control when driving on snow, ice, or in heavy rain, **keep both hands on the wheel** at the **3 and 9 o'clock positions**.
- **Slow down and don't tailgate** – to give yourself plenty of reaction time.
- The secret to avoiding **skidding out of control** on snow, ice and standing water is to make **SMOOTH and GRADUAL** motions when steering, braking and accelerating.
- Imagine, if you will, a **pitcher of milk** (or beverage of your choice) on the hood of your car; try to drive so smoothly that you don't spill a drop. Now, imagine an egg lodged between your foot and the gas or brake pedal; try to depress the pedal so gently that you don't break the egg. Remember, *smoooooth*.
- If you start to **skid**, take your foot off the brake and the gas and steer smoothly in the direction of the skid to straighten your vehicle and regain control.
- If you are having a hard time slowing or stopping on slippery roads, try this trick: **SHIFT INTO NEUTRAL**. This simple act removes the engine power from the wheels to help you steer, slow and stop more easily on snow and ice.
- **Bridges and overpasses freeze first and melt last**. When the temperature approaches freezing, what may appear to be a wet road could be dreaded **black ice**.
- Concentrate on your driving. Don't read or send **texts or e-mails**. If you must use your **phone** while driving, use the hands-free feature or pull over and stop in a safe place, well off the roadway.
- Always wear your **seat belt** and make sure all passengers are buckled, too. Sadly, most people killed in car crashes were found unbuckled.
- Keep your **car doors locked**; this may help safeguard you and your passengers in a collision, and you never know who might try to get in – or out.
- Before you leave, make sure your **tires and wipers** are in good condition and all your **lights** are working. Refill your window washer reservoir.
- Don't forget an ice scraper and snow brush. Remove ALL snow and ice from your vehicle.
- Use your **headlights day and night**, in good weather and bad, to help other drivers and pedestrians see you sooner.
- Be prepared for any emergency. Keep extra warm clothing, hat, boots and gloves in your vehicle in case of a breakdown or accident. A bright flashlight can be a lifesaver.
- **If you break down or have an accident**, pull as far off the roadway as possible to stay clear of oncoming traffic. Turn on your hazard flashers. Call 911 or AAA for assistance. It is generally safest to stay buckled inside your vehicle, but you may have to get out and stand well away from traffic.
- **Don't drive after drinking and/or using other drugs, period**. You will be arrested for drunk driving if you are stopped and found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent (which is about the equivalent of four 12 oz. beers). You will also be arrested if you are under the influence of illicit drugs, including marijuana, and some prescription drugs. Remember, there is **"zero tolerance"** for drivers under age 21 who have consumed any amount of alcohol at all, and a violation will result in a license suspension of 1-2 years.
- **Most highway crashes** are caused by driving too fast for the road and weather conditions, driver inattention/distraction, and following too closely. So slow down, wake up, and back off!
- Of course, the best advice is to **stay off the roads** until the weather improves and the roads are made safe.



Bag of Sand  
or Cat Litter



Blanket



Bottled  
Water



Cell Phone  
and charger



Extra  
Clothing



First-Aid Kit



Flashlight  
and batteries



Ice  
Scraper



Jumper  
Cables



Roadside  
Reflectors



Small  
Shovel



Snacks  
(Protein/Energy  
Bars, Trail Mix)



Other Items:  
Chains, Matches,  
Tools