



Winter Storm Tips

Driving

If you must travel in adverse winter weather, prepare your vehicle:

- Check the fluids, ensuring that the radiator is winterized.
- The gas tank is over half-full
- Windshield washing fluid is full.
- Check belts, hoses, and brake systems for excessive wear.
- Have the exhaust system checked; small leaks can allow carbon monoxide to enter the passenger compartment.
- Check tire treads for adequate traction
- Replace windshield wiper blades if they are ineffective.

Keep an emergency kit that includes at least the following:

- An ice scraper and shovel
- Jumper cables
- Flashlights
- Sand or kitty litter for traction
- Extra blankets or clothing
- Non-perishable food
- A first aid kit
- Matches and candles or flares
- Tow rope or chain
- Folding shovel
- Blankets, hot packs to keep your hands and feet warm, water and non-perishable snacks.

While driving remember the following:

- Allow extra time for delays and slower traffic speeds.
- Buckle up and properly secure children in safety seats.
- Keep a safe distance. If you are driving in wet or snowy conditions, give yourself at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding, and use low gears to avoid losing traction.
- Do not engage your vehicle's cruise control. Using cruise control on wet roads or during heavy rain can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Turn on your lights so you can see others, and they can see you.
- Remember emergency maneuvers. If you start to skid, for example, don't panic. Rather, let up on the brake or accelerator and look and steer in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go.

- Increase the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you. Ice and snow significantly increase your stopping distance.
- Accelerate and brake gently. A light foot on the gas is less likely to make wheels spin on ice and snow. Braking is best accomplished by pumping the pedal. If your vehicle has an anti-lock braking system (ABS), it is very important that you understand how to use it. Read the owner's manual or check with a dealership for more information, and practice using it correctly.
- Make turns slowly and gradually, especially in heavily traveled areas (e.g. intersections that may be icy from snow that melted and refroze).
- Visibility is very important. You must be able to see out, and other drivers must be able to see your vehicle. Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors, and lights. Use headlights as necessary.
- If your car loses traction and begins to slide, steer into the swerve, or in the direction you want to go. Anticipate a second skid in the opposite direction as the car straightens out.
- If you plan to drive, do not drink. Designate a driver or call a cab. Report impaired drivers to a law enforcement agency.
- Watch for deer, especially near dusk and dawn.

If you are stranded in a winter storm:

- Do not panic.
- Stay in the vehicle.
- Keep fresh air circulating through a downwind window.
- Run the motor sparingly.
- Turn on the dome light.
- Stimulate circulation and stay awake by moving arms and legs.

If you leave the car:

- Work slowly in the snow to avoid over-exertion and the risk of a heart attack.

Preparing for Power Outages

You can make waiting out a storm easier with some preparation: assembling a storm kit; deciding if you should seek shelter elsewhere; knowing how to report a power outage; and understanding how to safely operate a generator if they are using one.

During a power outage or to prepare for a prolonged power outage, you should have the following items:

- Emergency phone numbers
- Flashlights and fresh batteries
- Battery or wind up alarm clock
- Bottled water (a gallon per person per day)
- Nonperishable foods that don't require heating
- Non-electric can opener
- Blankets, bedding and sleeping bags
- First-aid kit and medications
- Tool kit, including a wrench to turn off gas or water lines
- Clean clothes

- Pet supplies
- If members of your household are very young, elderly or have special needs, they may need to seek shelter at a location with electricity and heat.

If you have a generator:

- Safety is a top concern for your family and for our workers.
- Do not connect a generator to your home's electrical panel or directly into a wall outlet. A generator should be connected using a power transfer switch that was installed by a certified electrician.
- Familiarize yourself with the instructions for operation and never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed areas.