



Kiowa County Health Department

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## **OSDH Provides Tips for Winter Driving Safety**

The upcoming holiday season means Oklahomans may often be traveling during potentially dangerous winter weather conditions. The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) encourages the public to begin preparation for the upcoming holiday travel season. Proper planning can reduce the risk of injury and illness while also ensuring a family is prepared for a major winter weather event.

OSDH Emergency Manager Darrell Eberly reminds travelers to check local television and radio reports of weather forecasts prior to making travel plans, and to know what the National Weather Service winter storm and blizzard watches and warnings mean.

“It’s a good idea to minimize travel during hazardous conditions,” said Eberly. “If you have to travel, it’s important to ensure your cell phone is fully charged, keep emergency supplies in the vehicle, and let friends or relatives know about your travel plans.”

Recommended supplies include:

- Blankets
- Snacks/water
- Flashlight/batteries
- Booster cables
- Sand or cat litter for traction
- Battery-powered radio
- First-aid kit

Officials also recommend keeping the vehicle’s fuel tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines. For travelers who become stranded, it is recommended to stay visible by putting a bright cloth on the antenna, and raising the hood when snow stops falling.

Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to local media reports about current watches, warnings and road conditions. To learn more about weather advisories, visit [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

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