
Safety-Gram

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Winter Hazards and Tips to Get You Prepared!

- **Ice, snow, and water on road surfaces reduce traction, increasing stopping distance and could possibly result in a skid.** Remember it takes more distance to stop on an icy road than it does on a dry road. Keep a safe distance between you and the car in front of you to give yourself enough time to stop safely.
- **Black ice is a thin, invisible layer of frost on the pavement** that commonly occurs on bridges, overpasses and shaded areas. The surface of the road may look only wet, when in reality, it is a thin sheet of ice. Be aware of potential black ice on road surfaces.
- **Snow, rain, and fog decrease visibility drastically in winter conditions.**
- **As the temperature rises to the melting point, roads become even more slippery** than they are in severely cold weather. Traffic flow polishes the ice and snow packed on road surfaces. With freezing weather, the possibility of chain reaction collisions increase.
- **Prepare your vehicle.** Clear all snow from your car's windows, lights, license plates, and roof. Snow blowing from the roof of your car is a visibility hazard to the driver behind you.
- **Carry a winter survival kit**, especially on long trips. Include matches, candles, flashlight, ice scraper, warm clothes, emergency blankets, food, water, first aid kit, and jumper cables.
- **Back off.** Have patience and give people more lead-time, especially if there's snow on the road. If you go into a skid, take your foot off the gas, steer into the skid, and regain control. If you have to stop right away, pump your brakes (do not slam on them). If your car has anti-lock braking (ABS), apply steady pressure to the brake pedal.
- **Do not sit in a parked car with the engine running** unless the window is partially rolled down.
- If available, **keep a charged cell phone on hand for emergencies.**