

# Winter Driving

# Winter Driving Preparations

## ***Tires:***

It is recommended to install four winter tires to improve traction on snow and ice

## ***Wipers:***

Teflon based wipers are designed for winter driving

## ***Windshield Washer Fluid:***

Make sure you're stocked up with winter-rated washer fluid

## ***Snow and Ice:***

Remove snow and ice from your entire vehicle before driving

## ***Gas:***

Travel with your gas tank close to full – your vehicle may be your only heat source in the event of getting stuck or stranded \*

# Winter Driving Preparations

**Winter survival kits** can prove invaluable if you find yourself stuck or stranded or coming to the aid of someone who is. Your kit should contain:

Drinking Water  
Waterproof matches  
Candle in a small can  
Whistle  
First aid kit  
Collapsible shovel  
Cell phone  
Pocket knife  
Tool kit  
Chains or traction device

Food (nuts, dried fruit etc.)  
Flashlight  
Road flares  
Blanket  
Towel  
Jumper cable  
Rope  
Duct tape  
Mittens, toque and boots

# Winter Driving Tips

- ***Slow down!*** Be prepared to allow more travel time, especially during those first snow falls
- Increase your following distances behind vehicles
- Steer smoothly – jerky movements increase your chance of skidding
- Bridges and overpasses freeze first – use caution\*

# Winter Driving Tips

- Keep your tire pressure up. For every five degree drop in temperature, tires lose one psi
- Road salt takes 20 - 30 minutes to take full effect and works best when the temperature is above – 10 Celsius \*

# If You Find Yourself in a Skid

- Don't panic, brake or accelerate
- Look to where you want to go and steer in that direction
- If driving manual, de-clutch to reduce engine braking effect
- If driving an automatic transmission shift to neutral to reduce engine braking effect \*

# Driving Long Distances

- Check the road conditions and weather before embarking
- Inform someone of your route and estimated time of arrival
- Travel well rested
- Stop to stretch frequently
- Eat light meals and snacks vs. big heavy meals
- Drive with a cooler air temperature, too warm can make you sleepy
- Never use cruise control in adverse weather conditions – when tires slip, the cruise control may respond by accelerating \*

# Getting Stuck or Stranded

- Remain calm
- Do not attempt to walk for help in a snowstorm – stay with your vehicle
- Place emergency lights and flares around your vehicle
- If you can't dig your way out, shovel snow from around your tailpipe and return to your vehicle \*



# Getting Stuck or Stranded (cont'd)

- Run the engine for about ten minutes every hour to keep warm. Make sure a window is open (choose a window opposite from the wind)
- Put on warm clothing right away. Don't wait to get cold to put on extra clothes, socks and toques
- Do simple stretches to increase circulation and maintain warmth
- Keep an eye out for rescuers \*

# Winter Driving- Remember

**Be Prepared and Slow Down  
to Stay Safe**

**Enjoy the Winter!**