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### 10 Ways to reduce the danger and stress of winter driving

Winter is white-knuckle season for many drivers. Snow and ice can turn driving into a nerve-wracking challenge. Motorists can reduce winter driving dangers with a little planning and extra caution. Here are a few safety reminders.



- ❖ **Be prepared.** Before winter storms hit, get a tune up, check the anti-freeze and inspect tires for wear. Always carry emergency supplies and keep the gas tank filled.
- ❖ **Slow down.** On slick or icy roads it can take several hundred feet to stop. Even four-wheelers equipped with chains need extra stopping room.
- ❖ **Avoid sudden moves.** Accelerate slowly from intersections and softly pump brakes for gradual stops. (If your car has anti-lock brakes, apply steady pressure.) Maintain a safe distance from vehicles in front and always signal before changing lanes.
- ❖ **Ease out of skids.** If your car starts to skid, immediately get off the brake and gas pedals, then gently turn the front of the car where you want it to go. This may be too little, too late, if you're going too fast.
- ❖ **Add extra weight.** Place a sandbag or other heavy object in the back of rear-wheel drive vehicle to improve traction.
- ❖ **Stay clean.** Before leaving home, scrape snow and ice off All the windows. Brush snow from hood and lights, too.
- ❖ **Pull together.** Courtesy can help reduce accidents. The last thing nervous or inexperienced drivers need are hotshots weaving through traffic or tailgating slower cars.
- ❖ **Know your limits.** If you're scared of driving in the snow, stay put! Excessively slow or indecisive driving can be as dangerous as over-confidence.
- ❖ **Stay informed.** Listen to the radio for weather warnings and traffic updates don't try to out-run severe storms.
- ❖ **Call ahead.** Let others know your travel plans, including destination, estimated time of arrival and route.