

Prepare...



Because
You Care

Winter Driving

Before Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

- Have a mechanic check your car. Check the battery, antifreeze, wipers and windshield washer fluid, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashing hazard lights, exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster and oil level.
- Install good winter tires.
- Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- Dress warmly. Wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing.
- Maintain a complete winter car kit including food and water.

During If you get trapped in your car during a blizzard, observe the following rules:

- **STAY IN THE CAR.** Do not leave the car to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow.
- Turn on emergency flashers at night to make your vehicle visible to work crews.
- Display a trouble sign. Hang a brightly colored distress flag from your radio antenna.
- Run the engine and heater about ten minutes each hour to keep warm. While the engine is running, slightly open a window and keep the exhaust pipe free from snow.
- Exercise lightly to maintain body heat and circulation. Huddle with passengers to stay warm. Try not to stay in one position for too long. Use newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation.
- Take turns sleeping.
- Be careful not to run the car battery down.
- If stranded in a remote rural or wilderness area, spread a large, brightly colored, cloth over the snow to attract attention of rescue personnel.
- Once the blizzard passes, you may need to leave the car and proceed on foot if no assistance is forthcoming.

*For more information, contact your
local emergency management office
list at right, or call the state's
Emergency Management office
(800) 562-6108*