

# Winter Travel Suggestions

Here are some helpful winter travel safety tips:

## ● INSTALL WINTER TIRES:

- Winter tires are made of softer compound and have a unique design that provides better traction and handling during frost, snow, slush and ice. The rubber compound is softer in a winter tire which helps increase the friction between the tire and the road. The tread pattern in a winter tire is also designed to maintain more contact with the pavement in adverse conditions. These tires meet specific snow traction performance requirements and have been designed specifically for use in severe snow conditions.
- Make sure your tires are properly inflated. Under inflation or over inflation can reduce the gripping action of tires resulting in the tread not meeting the road surface as it was designed to do.
- It is important that all four tires have adequate tread.



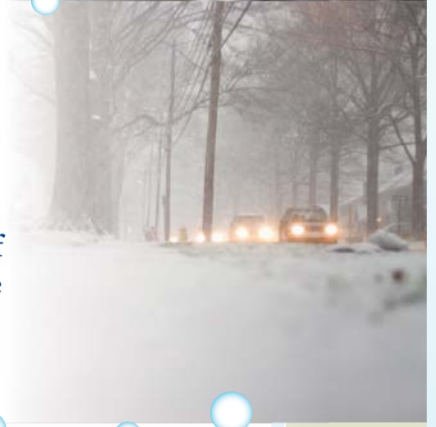
## ● WINTER MAINTENANCE CHECK-UP:

- Check windshield wiper blades to make sure they work properly and that the windshield wiper fluid reservoir is always full.
- Have your mechanic test the anti-freeze/coolant to provide the correct level of protection for your vehicle.



## ● SEE AND BE SEEN:

- Remove snow and ice from all vehicle windows, lights, turn signals and top of vehicle and allow extra time to properly clean off your car.
- Buckle up.
- Turn on your headlights.
- Turn off cruise control: the only way to stop wheel-spin and maintain control of a skidding vehicle is to reduce power immediately. However, an activated cruise control system will continue to apply power. By the time you have disengaged the cruise control it may be too late.



## ● PLAN YOUR ROUTE:

- Share your travel plans so others know when to expect you.
- Leave yourself enough time to reach your destination safely.
- Accelerate, brake and steer smoothly and gradually – avoid quick starts, stops and fast turns.
- Take it slow because it takes four times the distance to stop at 50 km/h as it does at 25 km/h.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Beware of BLACK ICE caused by moisture freezing on the road. The road usually appears wet when in fact it is covered in a thin layer of ice. Take it slow when approaching curves, intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady areas – all are hot spots for black ice.
- Don't overestimate the abilities of your vehicle! 4 wheel drive vehicles are not better than 2 wheel drive in stopping and turning in winter road conditions.



Driving too fast is the NUMBER ONE cause of collisions during the winter months! The faster you drive, the harder you hit and the more likely you are to injure yourself, your loved ones or other road users.

## ● WHAT TO KEEP IN YOUR VEHICLE:

- |                                 |                               |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| • Ice scraper/snowbrush         | • Gas Line antifreeze         | • Non-perishable energy foods e.g. chocolate, granola bars, juice, bottled water etc... |
| • Shovel                        | • First Aid Supplies          | • Candle and a small tin can  |
| • Sand or other traction aid    | • Flashlight and batteries    | • Matches   |
| • Tow rope                      | • Blanket                     |   |
| • Booster Cables                | • Extra clothing and footwear |   |
| • Road flares or warning lights |                               |   |



## ● WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SKID:

- Look where you want your vehicle to go and steer in this direction.
- DO NOT BRAKE!
- DO NOT ACCELERATE!
- Disconnect the driving force on the drive wheels by doing either of the following:
  - For automatic transmission – shift to neutral. However, if you cannot do that immediately, do not touch the transmission gear.
  - For manual transmission – declutch.

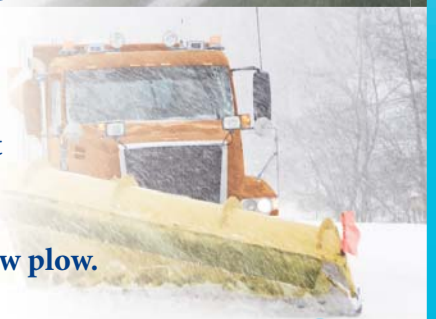


## ● WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF A COLLISION OCCURS:

- Click on the Collision Reporting Centre link for information about when a driver should report a motor vehicle collision at a centre and what steps need to be taken when a collision occurs.

## ● SNOW PLOWS:

- Drive a safe distance behind the plow. You may see them, but they may not see you if you are following too closely.
- Only pass snow removal vehicles when a safe passing areas is available and the lane is clear of snow or treated with salt and sand.
- Do not pass on the right.
- Before passing a snow plow, check the direction of snow discharge to avoid snow and debris thrown from the equipment. Plows are wider than most vehicles and portions of the plow and blade may be obscured by blowing snow.
- Don't travel beside a snow plow. They can shift sideways after hitting snow packs or drifts
- When approaching an oncoming snow plow, reduce speed and move to the right side of the road if safe to do so.
- Plows cannot stop quickly and require more spacing between vehicles.
- Don't drive through white-out conditions caused by swirling snow around a snow plow. Safely pull to the side or slow down to allow visibility to improve.



YRT/Viva



Weather



Road Conditions



Collision Reporting Centre