

Winter Driving Safety



Winter Safety Kit - Keep a winter safety kit in your trunk. Kits may be purchased from a variety of sources, or you can assemble your own at any auto parts or hardware store using a commercial version as a guideline. Consider including the following items:

- A thermal blanket
- A gallon of water
- Flashlight
- Duct tape
- Flares
- Help signs
- Jumper cables
- Tire gauge
- Work gloves
- Rope / bungee cord
- Hand tools (pliers, screwdrivers, Allen wrenches)
- Towels and a roll of toilet paper (in a plastic bag)
- An empty (new, never used) one-gallon gas can
- Pair of comfortable shoes
- Rain coat/suit/poncho

Fire Extinguisher - Also consider purchasing a small ABC-rated portable fire extinguisher in your vehicle. Buy one with a "mount" designed for use in vehicles. It should be securely "mounted" in the vehicle to prevent rolling and damage.

Spare Tire & Jack – Know how to change your tire. If you are unable, you should consider obtaining towing insurance (such riders are usually very inexpensive for excellent coverage) or by joining an automobile club or other provider. Be prepared!

Check Gauges – Keep vehicle in good repair and take time to check gauges and tire pressure. Make sure your gas tank doesn't drop below a quarter of a tank.

Advise Routes - Inform a family member where you will be and when to expect you back; give them your route if they don't know it.

Cellular phone – Take a cellular telephone with you when traveling. (But don't use it while driving; this is now unlawful in many states.)

Traffic Safety / Road Closures – Contact "National Traffic and Road Closure Information" at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm>

The single-most essential safety tip - Devote your full time and attention to driving! Avoid "tunnel vision" which often occurs during monotonous highway driving or "rubber necking" when focusing on an accident or sightseeing instead of your driving.