



Eye on Safety

Staying Safe in Cold Weather

To stay warm and drive safely in slick conditions, prepare your car, carry an emergency kit, dress warmly in layers in case you're stranded, drive with extreme caution, and plan ahead to avoid unnecessary travel.

Vehicle Preparation

- **Tires:** Check tread depth and pressure; consider winter tires.
- **Battery:** Cold weather weakens batteries, so ensure yours is strong.
- **Fluids:** Use -30°F rated windshield washer fluid and check antifreeze.
- **Fuel:** Keep your gas tank at least half full (or 2/3) to prevent fuel line freeze.
- **Visibility:** Clear all snow/ice from windows, mirrors, headlights, and taillights.

Emergency Kit Essentials

- Blankets, warm clothes, hat, gloves
- First-aid kit, flashlight, batteries
- Shovel, ice scraper, sand or cat litter (for traction)
- Water, non-perishable snacks, phone charger

Driving Tips for Slick Roads

- **Slow Down:** Reduce speed significantly; allow 8-10 seconds following distance.
- **Smooth Movements:** Gentle acceleration, braking, and steering to avoid skids (like pouring water off a dashboard).
- **Braking:** Brake early and gently; ease off the accelerator if you skid.
- **Lights & Cruise Control:** Use headlights; turn off cruise control.
- **Black Ice:** Watch for this clear, nearly invisible ice.

Personal Warmth

- Dress in layers (coat, gloves, hat) for any trip, even short ones, as delays can happen.

If stranded, stay with your car, keep the exhaust pipe clear, run the engine sparingly, and use your emergency blankets and supplies.



Learn more about the Secretary's Office of Safety [here](#).