

Winter Driving Tips

If you must be on the road, use the **Four P's of Safe Winter Driving**. Road crews work hard to ensure roads are in the best possible condition; however, you must change your driving behavior during the winter months.

Prepare your vehicle

- ▶ **Check tire tread.** Insert a Lincoln penny into the tread of each tire. If you can see the entire top of his head, your tire should be replaced.
- ▶ **Check tire air pressure.** Each tire should be filled to the suggested PSI (pounds per square inch) of air, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a label inside the driver's door. Check when tires are "cold" meaning they haven't been driven on for at least three hours.
- ▶ **Check fluid levels and heat.** Put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir and check your antifreeze, exhaust system and defrosters.
- ▶ **Check gas tank.** Always keep your tank two-thirds full.
- ▶ **Assemble a disaster supply kit.** Include a first-aid kit, shovel, ice scraper, flashlight and batteries, sand or cat litter, blankets, candles and matches, water, snacks and cell phone.
- ▶ **Clean your vehicle.** Remove snow and ice from headlights, taillights, mirrors and windows.



Plan your travel

- ▶ **Check weather and road conditions.** Visit GoKY.ky.gov for real-time traffic information or to keep up with snowfighters in each county. Visit SnowKY.ky.gov to view snow removal priority routes and learn more about the Transportation Cabinet's snow removal efforts.
- ▶ **Download the free Waze app.** The Transportation Cabinet and Waze (www.waze.com) have a partnership through the Waze Connected Citizens program. Both entities provide a free exchange of real-time data every two minutes, giving drivers a clearer understanding of roadway events. Waze is a GPS-based navigation app for smartphones, providing turn-by-turn information and user-submitted travel times and route details.



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OUTSMARTING TRAFFIC, TOGETHER

Prevent crashes

- ▶ **Drive carefully.** Allow extra time to get to your destination. Do not use cruise control. Remember that bridges along with exit and entrance ramps can be icy when other areas are not.
- ▶ **Leave a "space cushion."** Leave enough room between you and the car in front of you. Stopping in snow may require up to four times your normal stopping distance.
- ▶ **Be seen.** Dull, cloudy days will cut down on visibility so drive using low-beam headlights.
- ▶ **Steer into the skid.** Stay calm and ease your foot off the gas while carefully steering in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go.
- ▶ **Practice driving.** In daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.

Protect yourself if involved in a crash

Kentucky has a **Quick Clearance Law** (KRS 189.580) meaning:

If you are involved in a crash:

- If no one is visibly injured, move your vehicle to the shoulder or off the interstate or parkway
- Call police
- Exchange information

If you have a disabled vehicle:

- Move vehicle off the roadway if possible and stay in the vehicle
- Turn on emergency flashers
- Tie something white or bright to your antenna or window, or raise hood, to request aid
- If unable to move the vehicle from the roadway, stand away from the vehicle. Keep arms and legs moving to keep warm.



To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning if stuck in snow, keep the exhaust pipe clear. Run your vehicle with the windows partially down and use the heater for 10 minutes per hour.

Share the road with snow plows

- Be patient and don't pass the plow. If it is safe, the plow will pull over and let you pass.
- Be alert. A snow plow may create snow clouds which cause zero visibility.
- Stay back and give the plow room to work. It tends to speed up and slow down. Don't crowd the plow!



In case of an emergency, call for police assistance: 1-800-222-5555