

# 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](http://GoKY.ky.gov) for real-time traffic information or to keep up with snowfighters in each county. Visit [SnowKY.ky.gov](http://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](http://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.



**waze**  
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.**

## Need help?

To aid motorists, the SAFE (Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies) Patrol is operated on most Kentucky Interstates and Parkways seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. **For SAFE Patrol Call #SAFE or 1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982)**

## See a road hazard?

Directly inform the Transportation Cabinet of high-way hazards in your area. Call **1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982)** with the location of the problem, name or number of the state highway, and either a milepoint or landmark. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by and is available throughout the year.

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**HOURS OF OPERATION:** 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week (most routes)

**INTERSTATES AND HIGHWAYS:** I-24, I-64, I-65, I-69, I-71, I-75, I-264, I-265, I-165, US 23, KY 80

**PARKWAYS:** Louie B. Nunn, Wendell H. Ford, Western Kentucky, Edward T. Breathitt, Audubon, Bert T. Combs Mountain, Hal Rogers, Martha L. Collins Bluegrass, Julian Carroll Purchase



## Share the road with snow plows

Be patient and don't pass the plow. If it's 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. 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**

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Office of Highway Safety



[www.highwaysafety.ky.gov](http://www.highwaysafety.ky.gov)  
502-564-1438 or 1-888-374-8768