

## WINTER DRIVING SAFETY



Winter conditions like ice, snow, and fog present some unique travels when driving. Here are some tips:

- Know the current road conditions and the weather forecast. Call 800-427-7623 for highway conditions.
- Be prepared for changing conditions. Remember that driving is most dangerous when temperatures are near 32°.
- Make sure you can see clearly. Keep windshield, windows, mirrors and lights clear of fog, snow and ice. Wait until your windows are fully de-fogged before proceeding. Before turning on the ignition, make sure the wipers are not frozen to the glass.
- Allow enough time. Get an early start and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Always wear your seat belt.

Remember that overconfidence and failure to adjust enough for conditions are the main causes of winter driving accidents among experienced drivers.

### Traction



- "Smooth and slow on ice and snow." Make all moves slowly and carefully: starting, stopping, turning, speeding up, or slowing down. Sudden moves cause trouble when the traction is poor; smoothness is the key.
- Limit actions, such as braking and acceleration, to straight line driving. Both braking and acceleration can cause problems on slippery corners.
- To correct a skid, turn the wheel in the direction of the skid. If your rear end starts sliding to the right, turn the wheel to the right. Do not apply the brakes while in a skid.
- SUV Drivers: the added traction from your 4WD system is great for getting moving, but isn't going to help you stop. **Slow down!**

## Braking

Remember that stopping distances are doubled or tripled on snow or ice. Extra room between you and the car ahead may be the margin of safety that saves your life.

- Brake gently and in an on/off pattern. Power brakes require an especially light touch on the pedal.



- ABS (automatic braking system) is designed to prevent your wheels from locking up when braking. As a general rule, continuous pedal pressure will be better than on/off braking.
- Decelerate well in advance of a turn or stopping point. Try to avoid using brakes while turning; slow down in advance of the turn and then accelerate very gently while going through it.
- Be aware of potentially dangerous icy areas such as shady spots and bridges/overpasses. Slow down in these areas as ice is sometimes invisible.

## Fog

- Drive with lights on LOW beam. High beams will reflect off the fog, creating a "white wall" effect.
- Reduce your speed - and watch your speedometer. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding.
- Avoid crossing traffic lanes.
- Travel with the driver's window partially open. Listen for traffic.
- If your car is disabled or you can't continue, pull well onto the shoulder and turn off lights. Move away from your vehicle.
- Consider postponing your trip until the fog lifts.

