

# Winter Driving Guide for Families



## Winter Travel Tips



### Prepare your Vehicle



- ◆ **Service your Car:** Have a mechanic check your battery, belts, defrosters, and make any necessary repairs.
- ◆ **Lights:** Check the headlights, brake lights, turn signals and emergency flashers.
- ◆ **Windshield Wipers:** Make sure the windshield wipers work and replace worn wiper blades.
- ◆ **Windshield wiper fluid:** Fill the reservoir to keep the windshield clean and free of dirt and grime.

### Plan your Route

- ◆ Before starting your trip, check the weather, road conditions, and traffic.
- ◆ Allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely.
- ◆ Let others know your route and your planned arrival time.



### During Travel

- ◆ **Stay Alert:** Avoid risky driving behavior. On long trips, stop to stretch, get something to eat, and to return calls and texts.
- ◆ **Reduce your Speed on Snowy and Icy Roads:** Driving slowly helps you stay in control. Speed limits are intended for dry weather; it will take much longer to stop a car on a slick surface. Exercise extreme caution on bridges and interstate/freeway entrances and exits, as these are often the first areas of the road to freeze.
- ◆ **Headlights:** Turn on your headlights to see and be seen.
- ◆ **Sharing the Road With Snow Plows:** For your safety, it is recommended that you stay a safe distance behind the snowplows. If you are caught in the cloud of snow dust, you are too close.
- ◆ **Avoid passing snowplows:** Visibility can be reduced by blowing snow and snow plow operators may need time to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles.
- ◆ **Clear Snow and Ice off Your Vehicle:** Brush the snow off the headlights and taillights frequently.



### In An Emergency

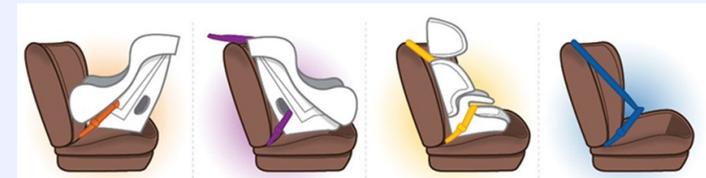
- ◆ **Emergency Planning:** If you stall or get stuck, tie a colored banner to your antenna or hang it out a window. At night, remove the cover from your dome light and turn the light on.
- ◆ **Stay in your Vehicle:** Walking in a storm can be very dangerous.
- ◆ **Prepare a Winter Emergency Travel Kit:** Select items that can be used to dig out of a snow bank or to help stay warm while assistance is on the way.



- ◆ Ice scraper
- ◆ Broom
- ◆ Small / Foldable shovel
- ◆ Sand or cat litter
- ◆ Flares/Jumper Cables
- ◆ Cell phone and charger
- ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ◆ Matches and candles
- ◆ Bottled Water
- ◆ Non-perishable food
- ◆ Blanket
- ◆ Extra warm clothing and gloves
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Other items, as necessary (medication, baby supplies, pet food, etc.)

## Protect All Passengers - Every Trip, Every Time

- ◆ **Always wear your seat belt and insist that everyone in the vehicle is correctly buckled.** Parents and adults who wear their seat belt are important role models for children learning good safety habits in car.
  - ◆ **Selection:** Select the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt based on the child's age, weight, height, and developmental level. The car seat or booster seat must fit in the car, and be used correctly every time.
  - ◆ **Direction:** Face the car seat in the correct direction for the age, height, weight, and developmental need.
    - ◆ Pennsylvania law requires children to remain rear-facing until two years of age.
  - ◆ **Location:** Place the child in a vehicle back seat position that allows for correct use following the car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
  - ◆ **Harness Adjustment and Fit:** Secure the child with a snug harness.
    - ◆ **Rear-facing:** At or Below the child's shoulders.
    - ◆ **Forward-Facing:** At or Above the child's shoulders.
  - ◆ **Installation:** Install the car seat / booster seat correctly using the vehicle seat belt or Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren (LATCH).



Driving in the winter can be hazardous. Take extra precautions while driving to prevent crashes and keep yourself and your passengers safe!  
Winter driving requires drivers to be careful and alert, but the most important tip for winter driving is to SLOW DOWN!