WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

READY YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER WEATHER

- **Get a tune up.** Make sure everything in your vehicle is in working condition: ignition, battery, transmission, brakes, spark plugs, filters, fan belts, etc.
- **Keep your tires inflated.** Because of low temperatures and icy roads, you run a heightened risk of flats. Adequate tire pressure will help prevent them.
- **Top off your fluids.** Your vehicle should always be flush with oil, antifreeze, and windshield wiper fluid.
- **Use the right tires.** If you live in a hilly region where road conditions are unpredictable, installing winter tires with added traction may be necessary.

MAKE SURE TO STORE THE ESSENTIALS

- **Things to keep you warm.** Keep blankets, boots, and cold weather clothes in your trunk in case of a breakdown.
- **Flashlights and flares.** Use these tools to alert other motorists of your presence in case of an emergency. Extra batteries for the flashlights are a good idea, too.
- **A fully-inflated spare tire, jack and wrench.** These should always be in your car if you get a flat, but in winter the need is especially immediate.
- **Tools to keep the snow at bay.** Don’t leave home without your ice scraper and snow brush. You really won’t want to have to use your hands.

KNOW HOW TO DRIVE IN SNOWY CONDITIONS

- **Maintain an increased stopping distance.** With the added risk of slides and spinouts, stay farther away from other vehicles than you would during other seasons: about 8 seconds between your car and others.
- **Handle hills correctly.** Don’t flood the gas at the crest of a hill. Let your inertia bring you to the top. Never stop mid-way up a hill.
- **Don’t brake too quickly or forcefully.** This will cause you to lose traction and cause steering wheel lockup.
- **Accelerate slowly.** Hitting the gas when the road is slippery will cause you to skid and lose control. Ease into every acceleration.

KNOW HOW TO HANDLE A SNOW DRIFT OR BREAKING DOWN

- **Don’t run the engine.** It’s tempting to keep warm in frigid weather. But if your exhaust pipe is clogged, you run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Don’t try to push your car out of the snow.** This could lead to overexertion or worse, the car might drift in your direction.
- **Stay in your car.** The nearest gas station may not seem far, but if weather conditions shift, just ten minutes outdoors could lead to harmful exposure.
- **Call for help.** Ignite a flare, or tie a bright-colored cloth on your antenna to indicate you are in need of help.