



Winter driving

Advisory suggestions to help prevent winter weather-related crashes

Risk alert bulletin



Loss prevention

Vehicle breakdowns and crashes can be inconvenient and costly, especially in the winter season. These events can interrupt schedules and result in vehicle damage and personal injury. Slippery road conditions, poor visibility, added stress, and distractions (visual, manual, mental) all increase the challenges of winter driving.

Follow these advisory suggestions to help prevent winter weatherrelated crashes.

7 tips for safer winter driving:

- 1 Prepare yourself and your vehicle for driving in winter conditions. In severe winter weather, stay off the roads whenever possible.
- 2 Clear the snow and ice from your vehicle before driving. You need to have a clear view when driving, and clearing your vehicle of snow will stop yourself and other drivers from getting into accidents due to flying snow and ice.
- Make sure you are mentally prepared. Stay completely focused on your driving by avoiding distractions and be prepared to avoid or stop driving (when safe to do so) when you feel uncomfortable.
- The condition of your vehicle is also very important. If your vehicle is unsafe, you are unsafe, and at a higher risk of getting into an accident and injuring yourself and others.
- **Avoid exceeding your risk comfort level.** Your comfort level is defined by many factors such as road and weather conditions, skill level, and type of vehicle that you're driving. Exceeding your comfort level puts you at a higher risk of a crash.
- 6 **Be prepared for emergencies.** Emergency preparedness can be as simple as a membership to a roadside assistance service provider or taking advantage of your vehicle manufacturer's roadside assistance program.
- Always keep your fuel tank full, have extra windshield washer fluid, and an emergency breakdown kit. Other helpful tips include making sure you have a fully charged phone, keeping a blanket or extra warm clothing in your car, as well as having water and snack bars in case of an emergency.

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