

IMPORTANT NOTICE –
Please Distribute to the General Manager or Insurance Contact

OLD MAN WINTER IS GRIPING MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

As you probably know, there is a huge winter storm of snow and ice predicted to cripple much New England. Strong winds and power outages are real possibilities.

We want to make sure you're safe, so here are some helpful hints about safe winter driving—in case you have to be out in it.

Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season and drive with your headlights on at all times. Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions. Always travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person along.

If you must go out during a winter storm, dress warmly; wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing; carry food and water. Keep a supply of high-energy "munchies" and several bottles of water with you.

Stay away from downed power lines, do not drive over them they may still be "hot".

Before driving in wintry weather, have a mechanic check the following items on your car: battery; antifreeze; wipers and windshield washer fluid; ignition system; thermostat; lights; flashing hazard lights; exhaust system; heater; brakes; defroster; oil level (if necessary, replace existing oil with a winter grade oil); and install good winter tires and chains when directed by the highway patrol.

If trapped in a car during a blizzard, stay in the car. Do not leave the car to search for assistance unless help is

Keep these items in your car:

- flashlights with extra batteries
- first-aid kit with pocket knife
- necessary medications
- several blankets
- sleeping bags
- matches
- extra set of mittens, socks, and a wool cap
- rain gear and extra clothes
- small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels
- small shovel
- small tool kit
- booster cable
- brightly colored cloth
- windshield scraper **and** a small broom for ice and snow removal

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visible within 100 yards. Otherwise, you may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow. Display a trouble sign and/or hang a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna and raise the hood. Occasionally run the engine to keep warm for about 10 minutes each hour. Run the heater when the car is running and turn on the car's dome light. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning; Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia such as intense shivering, muscle tension, fatigue, numbness, and hardening skin, which turns blue or white. Do minor exercises to keep up circulation. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long.

Don't forget:

- Four-wheel drive autos maneuver better on ice, but that doesn't mean they can stop quickly. Leave plenty of distance between you and other cars
- Defog windows (allow time to defog or defrost completely before hitting the road)
- More than half the cars that get towed into shops are there for repairs that could have been prevented by regular winter maintenance
- On icy roads, cut your speed by 2/3rds
- Bridges may be icy even when approach roads are clear. Cross them at even speeds

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Additionally, Telcom is here to help you in the event that you have a loss associated with a Winter Storm. If you have claim questions please contact Cheri Condee at 800-222-4664 ext. 1082 during work hours or Marilyn Blake's cell at 240-475-4021 after hours. If you would like more information about safe winter driving, please contact Tina Wynter at 800-222-4664 ext. 3206. We'll be happy to help in any way that we can.

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