

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

It is important to keep your vehicle in top operating condition year round – however, in the winter months it is critical for your family’s safety that your vehicle be well maintained.

It is important to have the following items checked before that weather becomes hazardous:

Ignition system	Antifreeze
Fuel system	Lights
Belts	Battery
Fluid levels	Cooling System
Brakes	Proper Oil Grade
Exhaust system	Defroster
Wiper blades and washer fluid	Tire tread & Pressure
Snow tires	

It is also recommended that you keep your gas tank as full as possible during the winter months. Also remember to carry the following items in your vehicle during the winter months:

- Cell phone
- Blankets
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Non-perishable snacks
- Extra set of mittens, socks and wool hat
- Small shovel
- Booster cables
- Brightly colored cloth to use as an “alert” flag

CHECK YOUR ROUTE

If you are traveling out of town always check your route and the forecast. Make sure that you inform at least two people of your travel plans, route and anticipated arrival time.

HITTING THE ROAD

Before hitting the road clear snow and ice off of your vehicle. Many accidents are caused because of poor visibility, making sure that your vehicle is cleaned off completely will allow a clear line of vision. Don't forget to clean off your headlights, taillights and brake lights.

Give yourself some extra time – it is better to leave early and arrive safely. Remember that bridges and overpasses freeze before other road surfaces do so approach them cautiously.

Here are some additional tips to help you get safely to your destination:

- *Slow down* – your vehicle will need a minimum of three times the normal stopping distance than under normal driving conditions.
- *Reduced visibility* – rain, snow and even cloud coverage can greatly reduce visibility.
- *Maneuverability* – most skidding is caused by sudden stops and turns. Use care when changing lanes, turning, passing or approaching another vehicle.
- *Skidding* – if your vehicle does start to skid, don't hit the brakes. Ease off the accelerator and steer into the direction of the skid.
- *Drowsiness* – never drive when you are drowsy, especially in the winter time. Even light snow can become hypnotic and cause already fatigued to become a danger on the road.
- Always, always, always make sure that you and all of your passengers wear their seat belts. It is the law and it will help to prevent serious injuries and fatalities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Milan Police Department at (309) 787-8520, your safety is our concern!