Winter driving

Preparing your vehicle

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Effects of cold weather

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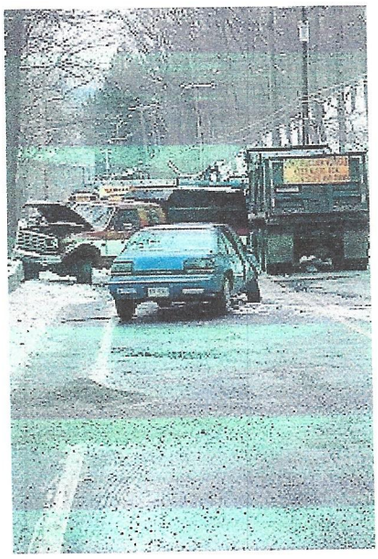
Safe winter driving tips

- **Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights** – even the hood and roof – before driving.
- **Pay attention.** Don't try to out-drive the conditions. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement.
- **Leave plenty of room for stopping.**
- **Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows.** The law requires you to slow down or move over when approaching emergency or maintenance vehicles, including snowplows, parked on the side of the road when they have their flashing lights turned on. If you approach a parked emergency or maintenance vehicle during a winter storm and decide to change lanes be extra careful. The passing lane may be in worse shape than the driving lane. There may also be a snow ridge between the two lanes. Avoid making an abrupt lane change. If approaching a snowplow, stay back at least 200 feet (it's the law!), and don't pass on the right.
- **Know the current road conditions.** Call 1-800-ROADWIS or log onto the winter road conditions report Web page.
- **Use brakes carefully.** Brake early. Brake correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
- **Watch for slippery bridge decks**, even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition. Bridge decks will ice up sooner than the adjacent pavement.
- **Don't use your cruise control in wintry conditions.** Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- **Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle.** Remember that your four-wheel drive vehicle may help you get going quicker than other vehicles but it won't help you stop any faster. Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles and actually may take longer to stop. Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle's traction. Your 4x4 can lose traction as quickly as a two-wheel drive vehicle.
- **Do not pump anti-lock brakes.** If your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes, do not pump brakes in attempting to stop. The right way is to



Related information:

Snow plowing guidelines

Winter road conditions report