



**SAFETY  
NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 2016**



**Special Interest  
Articles:**

Winter Driving  
Safety Tips

**WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS**

Winter driving presents a number of challenges for drivers regardless of whether they are accustomed to driving in extreme conditions, so it pays to be prepared.

***Practice makes perfect***

One of the best ways to learn skills required for driving safely in adverse weather is to practice. Drivers should consider formal training at a driving school.

***Plan ahead***

When conditions deteriorate, drivers must be able to focus on driving and not automotive problems, so keep vehicles properly maintained. To begin, have a qualified mechanic check and maintain the following items on your organization's vehicles, especially during the winter, in addition to performing regularly scheduled maintenance.

- Tires
- Antifreeze/coolant
- Battery
- Ignition system
- Thermostat/heater/defroster
- Headlights/tail lights/brake lights/flashing hazard lights
- Exhaust system
- Shocks and struts
- Brakes
- Windshield wipers and washer reservoir

Tires are essential for good vehicle handling during any driving condition, but they are even more important during inclement weather.

Install high-quality tires with adequate tread and ensure all tires are properly inflated. Both over- and under-inflated tires can reduce the gripping action of treads on road surfaces. Don't forget to check the spare tire to make certain it's in good condition, properly inflated and ready for a roadside emergency situation.



**Church Mutual  
Website and Safety  
Resource Links:**

[www.churchmutual.com](http://www.churchmutual.com)

[Safety Resources](#)

### ***Check weather conditions***

Before leaving on a trip and while en route during the winter, encourage your employees and volunteers to check local weather conditions. They can use cellphone weather apps or call the state highway patrol office or Department of Transportation to get road conditions. Remind drivers about distractive driving activities and to pull over before using a cellphone.

Cancel your plans if travel is not absolutely necessary. If you are forced to travel, however, slow down and allow for extra time to reach your final destination safely.

### ***Better to be safe than sorry***

In the event your employees or volunteers become stranded during a snowstorm or ice storm, be sure the vehicle they are traveling in is supplied with the following items:

- Cellphone and charger
- Emergency phone numbers
- Blankets, extra layers of warm clothing, gloves,
- Boots and hats
- Nonperishable food and water
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit and a small basic tool kit
- Jumper cables and warning devices, such as a reflective emergency triangle or road flares
- Bag of sand, cat litter or an old rug for tire traction
- Extra windshield fluid, windshield scraper and brush
- Small shovel



*For more information on transportation safety, visit <https://www.churchmutual.com/178/Transportation>.*