

## DRIVING IN WINTER

TD Meloche Monnex is proud to present these safety tips to help drivers cope with the hazards of winter road conditions.



### Driving in winter

Stay alert, slow down and stay in control – the three key tips of safe winter driving. Weather conditions can be variable and unpredictable, putting extra demands on your vehicle and your driving skills. Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you and take the extra time to ensure you are well prepared for winter roads. Try to avoid situations where you may have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.

### Be Prepared – A Driver's Checklist

- Get your vehicle winter-ready with a maintenance check-up. Don't wait for the worst of winter to have your battery, belts, hoses, radiator, oil, lights, brakes, heater/defroster, wipers and ignition system checked. It's important to have maintenance done before the season hits.
- The condition of your vehicle's tires is also important. Worn or damaged tires can affect your ability to drive safely. Have them checked or replaced before winter begins. Check tire air pressure regularly in winter as pressure decreases in cold weather. Remember that regular or "all season" tires may be adequate in some areas; they may not be suitable for driving in snow belt regions. In these areas you may want to consider using snow tires.
- Check weather and travel conditions before heading out. Don't take chances if the weather is bad; consider waiting until conditions improve before heading out.
- Clear snow and ice from ALL windows, lights, mirrors and the roof. After starting your vehicle wait for the fog to clear from the interior of the windows. This will ensure that you have good visibility once you begin your trip.
- Make sure you have enough windshield washer fluid in the reservoir and that it is rated in the  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperature range. Keep an extra jug in the trunk.

- Keep a Safe Distance – it takes longer to stop on a slippery road. It's important to leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle ahead.
- Remember, look far ahead as you drive, so you can recognize hazards and have plenty of time to respond.
- Adjust your driving to the road and weather conditions. Slow down and avoid sudden turns of the steering wheel, and sudden braking and accelerating which could cause a skid.

### Safety Equipment

Know and use your safety equipment as it was intended. The use of anti-lock braking systems (ABS) requires a different stopping technique. Pumping brakes on slippery surfaces can undo the braking technology built into ABS. ABS requires hard braking to let the system release the brakes on each wheel intermittently to prevent lock-up and to retain steering control.

### Winter Driving Survival Kit

It's a good idea to keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle. Having essential supplies can provide some comfort and safety for you and your passengers should you become stranded. Some recommended items include:

- Ice scraper/snow brush
- Shovel
- Sand or other traction aid
- Booster cables
- Road flares or warning lights
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Small tool kit
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Blanket
- Non-perishable energy foods

### Play It Safe!

Severe winter driving conditions may make you nervous, uncomfortable, or fearful. Stay off the road unless your trip is absolutely necessary. Proper preparation and the right skills will help you face the challenge of winter driving.



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