



Purpose

The Army Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting Army installations worldwide. The Army EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terrorism hazards.

Vision

The vision of the Army EM Program is to provide Army EM services when and where they are needed, with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the Army community and mission capability from all hazards.

Mission

The mission of the EM Program is to provide integrated and comprehensive Army EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost-effective, implementable, and sustainable manner.

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Joint Operation Center
- GOHSEP 225-925-7500
- American Red Cross
1-800-RED-CROSS
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
1-800-621-FEMA
- National Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233

LANG EM WEB Page:
<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>

EMERGENCY MANAGER

This month's bulletin will focus on Tips for Safe Winter Driving, Developing a Communications Plan and How to Winterize Your Vehicle.

Winter driving presents a number of challenges to you and your car. Cold weather tests the limits of your car's mechanical abilities. Treacherous conditions test your abilities as a driver. If you're not careful, you could find yourself sliding towards a guard rail, wondering if your affairs are in order.



Nothing's a big deal in the summer. You break down? So what? It's a nice night out. Look at all those stars! But break down when it's minus jaw-freezing outside, and that's a different story. Since bad hoses, belts, water pumps and spark plug wires can leave you stranded in the winter, it's better to be prepared. Here are our tips for safe winter driving in snow and sleet-covered roads, and dipstick-freezing temperatures. We hope you find them useful. Always Remember "Be Prepared".

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10 Tips for Safe Winter Driving

How to manage challenging road conditions

Winter has arrived, and with the change of seasons comes the threat of nasty weather. Before winter strikes in full force, make sure you and your car are ready. As you head to the roads during this busy holiday travel season, following our tips can help ensure you get to your destination and back home safely.

Keeping up with car maintenance year-round is important, but it carries added significance in the winter when being stranded can be inconvenient due to holiday travel plans, as well as being downright unpleasant waiting at the side of the road. As always, try to time your routine maintenance ahead of long-distance travel. Putting off service today can turn into an expensive problem down the road.

As winter driving safety is so impacted by traction, it is key to make sure your tires are in top shape. Check tire pressure monthly, topping off as necessary. (Cold winter temperatures can lower tire pressure.) Inspect your tires for tread depth, an important factor in wet and snow traction. The tread should be at least 1/8 an inch, easily gauged by using a quarter and measuring from the coin's edge to Washington's head. Look for uneven tread wear, which typically indicates poor wheel alignment or worn suspension components. If you do invest in new tires, be sure to have your vehicle's alignment and suspension checked before having the tires mounted to avoid premature wear.

With the car prepped for travel, keep these 10 tips in mind:



1. Clear off the snow and ice before driving. If snow has fallen since your car was parked, take the time to thoroughly brush it off the vehicle--including the roof--and scrape any ice from the windows. "Peephole driving" through a small, cleared spot on your windshield reduces your visibility and is quite dangerous.

2. Accelerate slowly to reduce wheel spin. If starting from a standstill on slick snow or ice, start in second gear if you have a manual transmission or gear-selectable automatic so the vehicle is less likely to spin the tires.

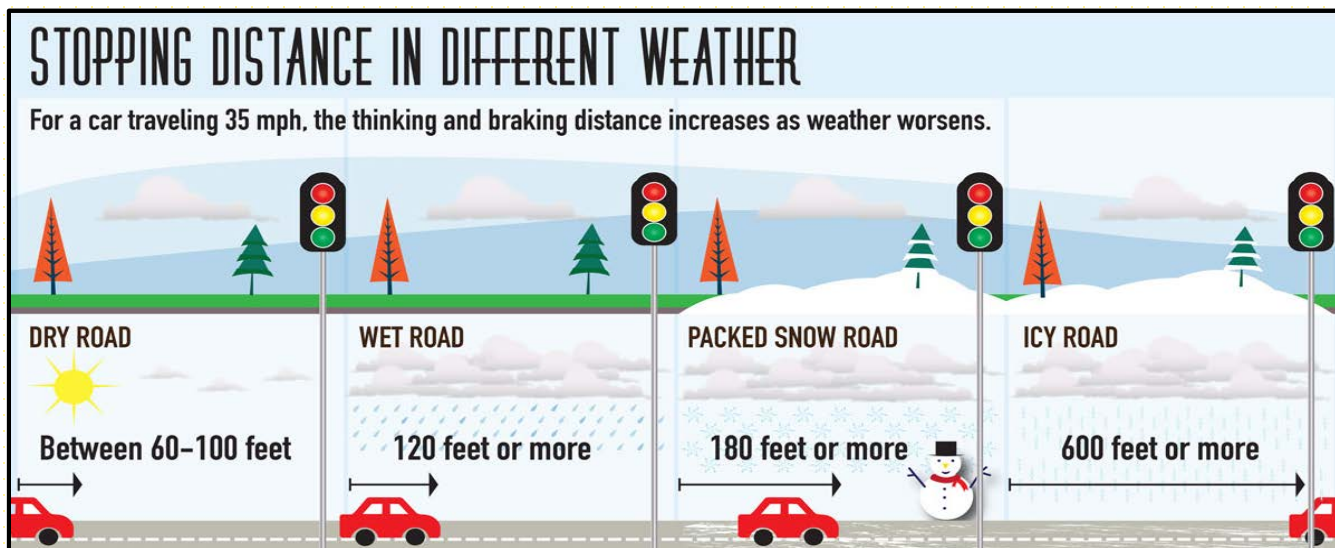
3. Reduce your speed and drive smoothly. In slippery conditions, tires lose their grip more easily, affecting all aspects of your driving: braking, turning, and accelerating. Keeping the speeds down will give you more time to react to slippage or a possible collision, and it will lessen the damage should things go wrong.



10 Tips for Safe Winter Driving Continued

How to manage challenging road conditions

4. Allow longer braking distances. Plan on starting your braking sooner than you normally would in dry conditions to give yourself extra room, and use more gentle pressure on the brake pedal.



5. Don't lock your wheels when braking. Locked wheels can make the vehicle slide or skid. If you have an older vehicle without an antilock braking system (ABS), you may need to gently apply the brakes repeatedly in a pulsing motion to avoid having them lock up the wheels. If your vehicle has ABS, simply depress the brake pedal firmly and hold it down. The shuddering sounds and pedal feeling is expected (don't lift off the brake); the system is doing its job.



6. Perform one action at a time when accelerating, braking and turning. Asking a vehicle to do two things at once--such as braking and turning, or accelerating and turning--can reduce your control. When taking a turn on a slippery surface, for instance, slowly apply the brakes while the vehicle is going straight.

7. Avoid sudden actions when cornering. A sudden maneuver--such as hard braking, a quick turn of the steering wheel, sudden acceleration, or shifting a manual transmission --can upset a vehicle's dynamics when it's taking a turn. Rapidly transferring the weight from one end or corner to another can throw a car off balance. In slick conditions, this can cause it to more easily go out of control.



10 Tips for Safe Winter Driving Continued

How to manage challenging road conditions

8. Be ready to correct for a slide. Should the rear end of the vehicle begin to slide during a turn, gently let off on the accelerator and turn the steering wheel in the direction of the slide. This will help straighten it out. Electronic stability control will also help keep control in a slide situation. But remember, safety systems may bend the laws of physics, but they can't overcome stupid.



9. Don't let four- or all-wheel drive give you a false sense of security. 4WD and AWD systems only provide extra traction when accelerating. They provide no advantage when braking or cornering.

10. Be extra wary of other motorists. They may not be driving as cautiously as you, so leave extra space, avoid distractions, and be predictable, signaling clearly ahead of any turns or lane changes.



KNOW SNOW! TOP TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING



SLIP AND SLIDE: TEST ROAD CONDITIONS FREQUENTLY

Periodically, check traction (available grip) when driving in challenging conditions. Road conditions can change drastically in a short period of time/distance in winter. Apply the brakes with moderate pressure to determine the available grip and modify your driving, if needed, to respond to ever-changing road conditions.



GRIP IT GOOD!

It's best to avoid braking or acceleration when negotiating a turn.

- 1 Brake before the turn
- 2 Negotiate the turn
- 3 Accelerate after the turn



YOU CRUISE, YOU LOSE



Avoid cruise control in wet, icy or snow conditions to maintain control of acceleration and deceleration at all times.



Develop a Communications Plan



Your family may not be together when a winter storm hits, so it is important to know:

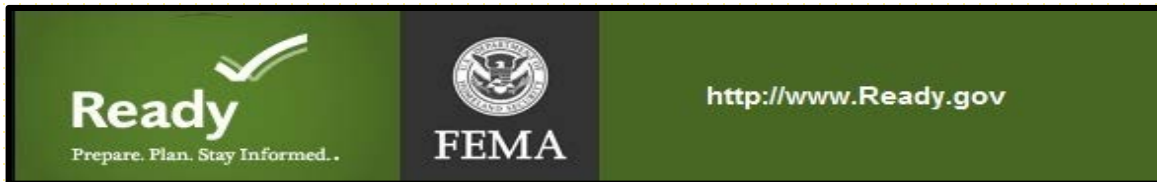
How you will contact one another.

How you will get back together when it is safe to travel again.

A storm may overwhelm landline and cellular phone systems. You may need to use text messaging or social media to communicate.

Keep important numbers written down in your wallet in case you cannot access your phone.

For more information, including a sample household communications plan, visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan



Winterize Your Vehicle

Antifreeze Levels – Ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.

Battery and Ignition – Keep in top condition and clean battery terminals.

Brakes – Check for wear and fluid levels.

Exhaust System – Check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as needed. Carbon Monoxide is deadly and usually gives not warning.

Fuel and Air Filters – Replace and keep water out of the system by using additives.

Heater and Defroster – Ensure they work properly.

Lights and Flashing Hazard Lights – Check for serviceability.

Oil – Check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.

Thermostat – Confirm it works properly.

Windshield Wiper Equipment – Repair any problems and maintain proper fluid level.

Install good Winter Tires – Make sure your tires have adequate tread.

