



LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

December 2023
Volume FY24 Issue 3



Purpose

The National Guard (NG) 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 NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terroristic hazards.

Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

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LA National Guard Joint Operation
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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



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

December is here along with the holidays. Family and friends will be traveling to meet with their loved ones for Christmas and family reunions. It is truly the best time of the year, but we must be ready for unknown dangers this time of the year as well.

This month's bulletin will focus on the dangers of fall driving, emergency vehicle kits and safeguarding your personnel and financial records.

Spending extra time with the kids during the holidays? Watch the FEMA Disaster Dodger series of videos on YouTube or <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/106006>. These 5 videos are all seven minute or less and they feature kids talking to kids about preparing for disasters. It's a great way to have important conversations without getting too scary or technical.

Don't give another ugly sweater or something else that will be returned. Show your loved ones you care by getting them started on their disaster supplies kit. You can pick up a basic kit and give them a list to help them add the personal things they may need like prescription medications and clothing.

Please read the bulletin and utilize the information to keep you and your family safe this holiday season. Always Remember, "Be Prepared".

LANG EM WEB PAGE:

<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>

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Dangers of Fall Driving Leaves

When leaves accumulate on the roadway and become wet, they can get extremely slippery, making the driving conditions similar to driving on ice. If the temperature drops below freezing, the wet leaves will freeze and turn into dangerous icy leaves on the roadway. Besides reducing the car's traction, causing skidding and the possibility of losing control of the vehicle, leaves often cover the painted road markings, making it difficult to know the locations of the lanes.

- Slow down if you are driving on a road covered with leaves, especially when driving around turns.
- Allow yourself plenty of room to stop in an emergency. Keep a greater distance between you and the car in front of you.
- Leaves make it difficult to see potholes and bumps in the road.
- A pile of leaves raked to the side of the road is an inviting place to a child. Children enjoy jumping into the leaf piles or burrowing down into them and hiding. Never drive through a leaf pile. Use caution going around turns and where children are playing.
- Keep your windshield leaf free to avoid wet leaves getting stuck under the windshield wiper blades.
- In order to avoid the possibility of a fire hazard from the exhaust system or catalytic converter, never park your vehicle over a pile of leaves

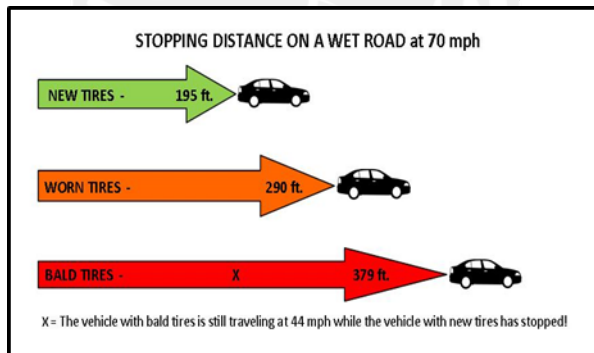


Additional Concerns

Weather conditions can be unpredictable in the fall. A bright, beautiful afternoon can turn rainy and cold in minutes. And with days getting shorter, you could find yourself commuting to or from work in darkness.

Back-to-School Traffic

Fall means back to school for kids, which means more cars and buses on the roads. Drivers also need to watch out for increased pedestrian traffic in the morning and afternoon as children walk to and from school and their neighborhood bus stops.



Rain

The first rain in a few weeks can be particularly dangerous, as water pools on top of dust and oil that haven't had a chance to wash away and makes the pavement extremely slippery.

Frost

During the fall, temperatures tend to drop dramatically during the night, which can lead to morning frost and icy spots on the road. This is especially common on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas of the road.



Dangers of Fall Driving Continued

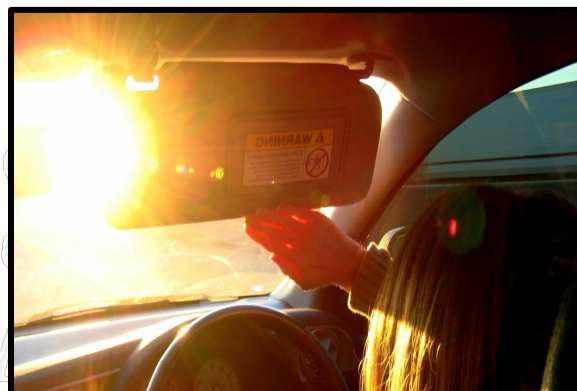


Fog

Cold fall mornings often lead to fog, which can greatly limit your driving visibility and perception of distance. Fog tends to occur in low places or areas surrounded by hills, water, mountains, and trees. One common mistake drivers make during foggy conditions is putting on their high beams instead of staying with their low beams. This only makes visibility worse because your high beams will bounce off the fog and create glare. When driving through fog, slow down and stay well behind the car in front of you so you'll have adequate time to stop if you need to.

Sun Glare - Fall is also a bad time for sun glare on the roads.

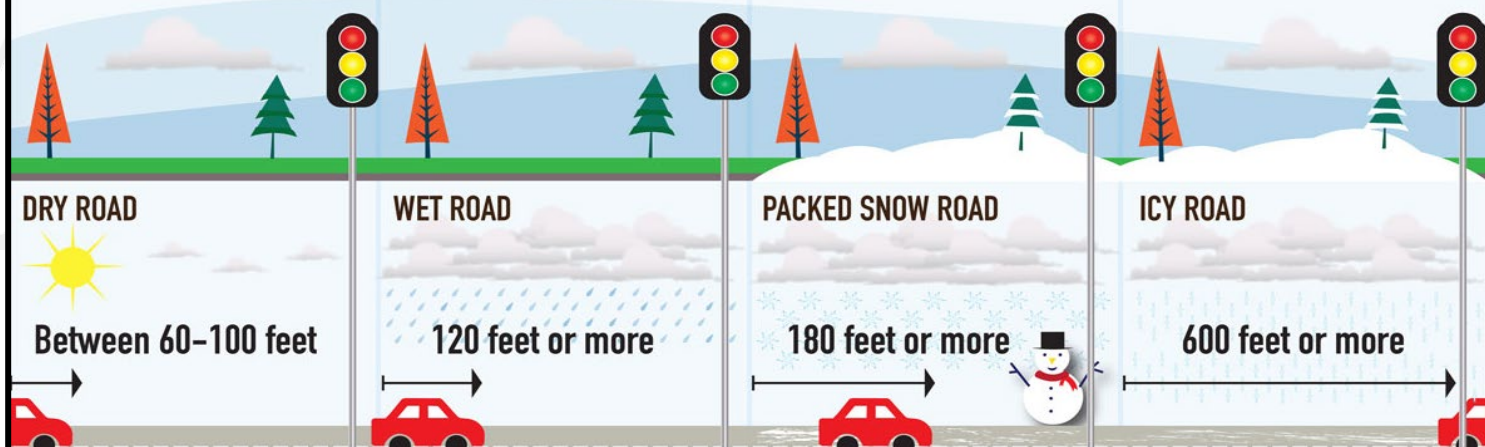
Sun glare can impact your sight for seconds after exposure, making it hard to see pedestrians, oncoming traffic, or the car in front of you. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drivers describe being "blinded" after exposure, and this sometimes leads to accidents or near misses. Sun glare can also cause problems when the sun sets behind drivers. In this case, sunlight can bounce off your rearview mirror or reflect off traffic lights up ahead, and this can blind you for a split second while your eyes adjust. It can also make it hard (or impossible) to see traffic lights, which can prevent you from knowing if you're supposed to stop or go.



Deer - The fall season brings an increase in deer activity because it's their time for mating and migrating. If you live in a deer-heavy area, watch for darting deer, especially when driving at night.

STOPPING DISTANCE IN DIFFERENT WEATHER

For a car traveling 35 mph, the thinking and braking distance increases as weather worsens.





Building a Winter Emergency Kit for Your Car

We've all seen the TV news shots, usually taken from a helicopter, of a miles-long line of forlorn cars and trucks stuck on a snow-clogged highway where they've been sitting for hours and likely will be sitting for hours more. If you're in that mess, just about the only thing you can do is wait.

But what if you had been driving on a less well-traveled road on your way to visit friends who live in the back of beyond. A sudden, massive snowfall begins, visibility drops to just a few feet, and, because you are not completely familiar with the road, you drift off the pavement and slide into the ditch. Now what? You haven't seen another car for an hour and even though you have a cell phone, you're not getting any bars.

It's pretty unlikely that you will be able to get yourself out of the ditch without help. You may have to wait a long time for help to arrive — even if your cell phone does work and you can reach the people you were on your way to see who ask you where you are so they can send a tow truck. Besides, do you really know where you are?

The best advice: be prepared. It is easy and relatively inexpensive to put together an emergency travel kit that includes enough stuff to keep you warm and, in the best case, get you out of the mess you find yourself in.

Some of the items in our suggested kit could be kept in your vehicle year-round and others are specifically intended for winter driving. (These items are **NOT** in order of precedence)

1. Cell Phone Charger. Cold weather drains any battery much more quickly than more moderate temperatures. There are even hand-crank models available for those times when your car's battery is dead.

2. Ice Scraper and Snow Brush. Obvious, no?

3. Blankets. If the car is not running, there will be no heat. Those inexpensive, heat-reflecting "Space Blankets" are helpful, but a heavy wool blanket or sleeping bag for every occupant is better.





Building a Winter Emergency Kit for Your Car (Continued)

4. Folding Shovel. You might be able to dig yourself out of the ditch. It's worth a try and at least the work will keep you warm.



5. Extra Clothing. A rule of thumb: enough extra clothing for each person to keep them warm for at least an hour outside the car.

6. Flashlight. A good flashlight with good batteries (and perhaps some spares). A headlamp leaves your hands free to shovel or change a tire, so that might be a better option. There are even hand-crank flashlight/radio combinations available. Don't rely on the kind that plug into the vehicle's 12-volt outlet — if the car battery is dead, so is the flashlight.



7. Sand. To add some traction at the drive wheels after you've dug them out with the shovel.

8. First Aid Kit. Basic stuff like bandages, antiseptic cream, pain relievers, and antacids. Also, any routine medication for anyone in the car.

9. Tow Strap or Chain. Just in case someone should drive by in a big 4x4 and offer to pull you out of the fix you're in, but he doesn't have a tow strap. Also make sure you know where to attach the strap so you don't pull the bumper off your car.



10. Food and Water. No need for a picnic lunch here, but some bottles of water (1 gallon per person recommended) and some dried food or energy bars could keep everyone in a little better mood.

Among the other things you should keep in the car at all times are jumper cables; a good spare tire and all the parts to your jack; a tool kit in case someone who knows how to fix a car stops and offers to help; flares or other signaling devices; and a collapsible fuel container for those awkward times that you have walked to a gas station only to find out they don't have a gas can for you to borrow.



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Winter Weather Emergency Kit

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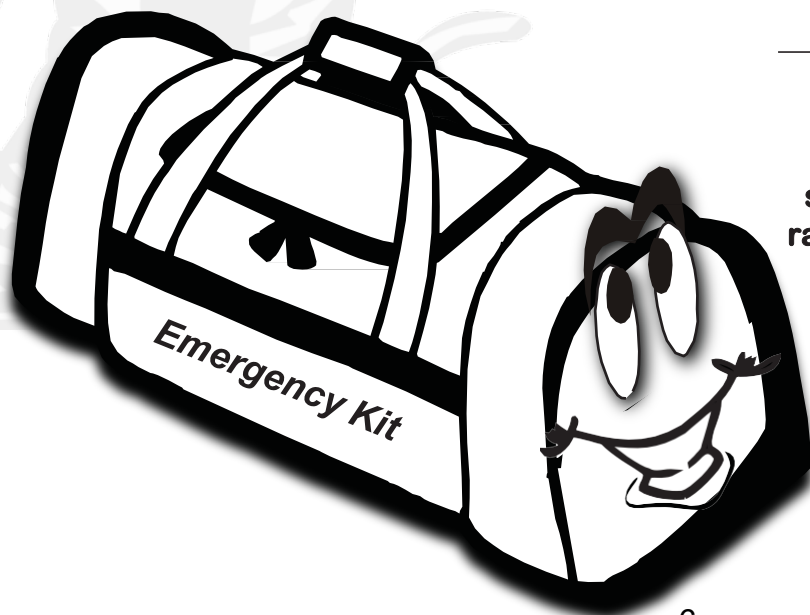
Insert pet's name here

What will you put in your emergency kit for them?

Hint: What do they eat and drink?

Winter storms may include heavy snowfall, high winds, sleet, freezing rain, frozen roads, power outages and dangerously cold temperatures.

You'll be prepared with your winter weather emergency kit!





Safeguarding your Personal and Financial Records

Step 1: Gather your personal and financial documents – Use the following checklist to help you gather and organize your valuable documents.

Personal Records:

- ☐ Military ID Cards and Passports
- ☐ Insurance Records (medical cards and records, auto, life, group accident and home or rental insurance)
- ☐ Bank/credit union statements
- ☐ Birth certificates or adoption papers
- ☐ Marriage license and divorce decrees
- ☐ Social Security cards
- ☐ Citizenship papers
- ☐ Wills and record of beneficiaries
- ☐ Pet proof of ownership and vaccination records
- ☐ Vehicle registration/ownership records
- ☐ Powers of attorney (personal/property)



Step 2: Put copies of your documents in a waterproof, portable emergency supply kit.

Financial Records:

- ☐ Tax returns and property tax statements
- ☐ Bank/credit union statements
- ☐ Credit/debit card statements
- ☐ Investment and retirement account records
- ☐ All income records (including government benefits, child support and alimony)
- ☐ Mortgage statement or lease
- ☐ Bills (electric, gas, water, phone, etc.)



Step 3: Store all original documents, photographs and computer backup disks in an off-site safety deposit box. Be sure to keep this key in a secure place.

