



Winter can be a particularly hazardous season for pedestrians, drivers, and vehicle operators. Fog, rain, ice, snow, and poor visibility are common challenges this time of year. However, taking simple precautions can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries. Here's how you can stay safe on the road this winter.

Prepare Your Vehicle Before Driving

Before heading out in winter weather, take a few extra moments to ensure your vehicle is in good condition and operating properly. Ask yourself the following questions:

Are the windshield and side windows clear of frost, fog, or snow?

Are the windshield wipers functional, and are the blades in good condition?

Is your view through all the mirrors clear and unobstructed?

Are the headlights clean and bright enough for proper visibility?

Do the tail and brake lights work correctly?

Are the emergency lights operational?

Is your dashboard free of items that could block vents or interfere with the defroster?

Do the tires have adequate tread and the correct pressure?

Are the brakes functioning smoothly and effectively?

Do you have more than a quarter of a tank of gas?

Additionally, ensure your vehicle is equipped with essential emergency supplies:

Flashlights

Flares

Fire extinguishers

Chains (if driving in snowy areas)

Warm clothing, blankets, and water in case of a breakdown in cold weather

Inspect these items and address any concerns before winter conditions worsen. Review the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's recommendations for safe winter driving for additional guidance.

Practice Safe Driving Habits

Once you've ensured your vehicle is ready, adjust your driving to match the road conditions:

Reduce your speed on wet, icy, muddy, or oily roads. Slower speeds allow you more time to react to unexpected situations.

Stay alert for pedestrians, animals, and other obstacles. Winter conditions can make it harder to see and stop quickly.

Be Prepared for the Unexpected

Winter weather is unavoidable, but you can prepare for it. Preventative maintenance, a well-stocked vehicle, and cautious driving habits are critical for staying safe. Taking the time to prepare now can make all the difference when facing challenging road conditions later.

Stay safe, drive carefully, and be ready for winter!