Winter Driving
The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration reports that 1,836 people die and 136,309 people are injured every year from icy roads in the US.
Winter weather, such as snow, sleet, freezing rain, and ice, can create hazardous road conditions.

Every year, 24% of weather-related vehicle crashes happen on snowy, slushy, or icy pavement and 15% happen during snowfall or sleet.
Winter driving hazards include:
- Slowed traffic
- Slippery or icy roadways
- Frozen bridges
- Steep hills
- High speed roadways
- Deceleration spots
- Acceleration spots
- Fallen branches and powerlines
Warning signs that can alert you to possible hazardous winter road conditions include:

- Temperatures near or below freezing (32°F)
- Falling precipitation
- Ice or snow sticking to your vehicle
- Ice or snow sticking to elevated objects
During a winter weather event, stay off roads if possible. If you have to get on the road:

- Carry a cell phone
- Let someone know when you depart, your route, and expected arrival time
- Dress according to weather conditions; keep dry and wear clothing in layers
- Keep your gas tank full
- Check the local news for road closures or known hazardous conditions and plan your route accordingly
Making sure your vehicle is winter-ready is another important safe driving practice. To keep your vehicle winter ready:

- Keep your battery fully charged (they are weaker in cold weather)
- Check your brakes and have them serviced if necessary
- Make sure your vehicle’s exhaust system has no leaks
- Make sure your wiper blades are in good condition and keep the windshield washer reservoir filled with antifreeze solvent
You should **also check** the vehicle’s radiator, heater core, and all hoses that carry antifreeze to make sure they are in good condition and free of leaks.
In case of a winter emergency, keep an emergency supplies kit in your vehicle that includes:

- Jumper cables
- A small shovel
- Ice scraper and brush
- Traction aids (bag of sand or cat litter)
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- A two-way radio
- Flares or reflective triangles
- First aid kit
Additional items you might want to have in your emergency kit if you are going on a longer trip include blankets, sleeping bags, extra winter clothes, matches, food, water, and road maps.
Once you are on the road, follow these safe driving practices:

- Accelerate slowly
- Increase your following distance
- Brake early
- Approach bridges, shaded spots, and turns slowly
- Never use cruise control
- Use snow tires or chains
- Wear your seat belt
Driving too fast for the road conditions can cause you to skid or slide. If you do begin to slide, remain calm and react based on your vehicle’s steering.
In rear-wheel drive vehicles, stay off the brakes and gradually ease off the accelerator.

- Turn your wheels in the direction the rear end of your vehicle is skidding
- If the rear end of the vehicle skids right, steer right; if the rear end of the vehicle skids left, steer left
In **front-wheel drive** vehicles, accelerate slightly and steer in the direction you want to go.

- If there is no room to accelerate, shift into neutral

The key to safe vehicle operation is **slower speed**. Slow down and be alert.
### If you get into an accident on an icy road:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Do:</th>
<th>Do Not:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• If your vehicle is driveable, keep moving</td>
<td>• Do not get out of your vehicle and stand on the road</td>
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<td>• If your vehicle is disabled, stay in your vehicle if traffic is approaching</td>
<td>• Do not stop for accidents or stranded vehicles along the road</td>
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<td>• If possible, get off the road as quickly as you can</td>
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<td>• If it is not possible to get off the road, stay in your vehicle</td>
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If a winter storm strands you in your vehicle, **stay in your vehicle**. Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards.

If you can, hang a **brightly colored** piece of cloth on the radio antenna and raise the hood.
Run your vehicle’s engine for about 15 minutes each hour and run the heat to keep warm. Never go to sleep with the engine running.

If it is extremely cold, you may need to keep the engine running continuously; it may not restart if shut off.
Winter weather can create many hazards, including dangerous road conditions.

Pay attention to weather warnings and if you have to get on the road, use caution.
1. _______ hazards include slowed traffic, slippery or icy roadways, frozen bridges, and steep hills.
   A. Excavation  
   B. Fall protection  
   C. Winter driving  
   D. Wildfire

2. Safe driving practices once you are on the road include _______.
   A. Brake early  
   B. Decrease your following distance  
   C. Accelerate quickly  
   D. Use cruise control

3. Driving _______ for the road conditions can cause you to skid or slide.
   A. Too slow  
   B. The speed limit  
   C. The correct speed  
   D. Too fast

4. If you begin to slide in a _______ vehicle, stay off the brakes and gradually ease off the accelerator.
   A. Front-wheel drive  
   B. Four-wheel drive  
   C. Rear-wheel drive  
   D. All-wheel drive

5. If you begin to slide in a _______ vehicle, accelerate slightly and steer in the direction you want to go.
   A. Front-wheel drive  
   B. Four-wheel drive  
   C. Rear-wheel drive  
   D. All-wheel drive

6. The key to safe vehicle operation is _______.
   A. Increased speed  
   B. Decreased following distance  
   C. Slower speed  
   D. Braking late

7. If a winter storm strands you in your vehicle, _______.
   A. Leave your vehicle  
   B. Run the engine and go to sleep  
   C. Turn off your cell phone to conserve the battery  
   D. Stay in your vehicle

8. If a winter storm strands you in your vehicle, do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within _______.
   A. 100 yards  
   B. A quarter mile  
   C. A half mile  
   D. A mile

9. Run your vehicle's engine for about _______ each hour and run the heat to keep warm.
   A. 5 minutes  
   B. 15 minutes  
   C. 30 minutes  
   D. 40 minutes

10. _______ go to sleep with the engine running.
    A. Never  
    B. Always  
    C. Sometimes  
    D. Consider it safe to
Instructors: The following key shows the answers for the Winter Driving safety meeting quiz.

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. B
10. A
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Student Instructions: Print and sign your name. Also, provide your date of birth or the last four digits of your social security number.

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