



Safe Winter Driving Tips



ICE & SNOW... TAKE IT SLOW

Be Prepared!

Be aware – Find out about the latest weather-related driving conditions and stay alert to changing road/weather conditions as you travel.

Be informed – Make informed decisions as you plan your trips. Travelers can easily do this by using KDOT's free traveler information services:



Web site - Visit www.kandrive.org, KDOT's one-stop gateway for travel information and trip planning in Kansas and surrounding states to help you know before you go! Get maps, camera and message sign views and more.



511 Phone - Before you go or as you go, call 5-1-1 from any phone from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S., or if unable to access 5-1-1, for road conditions, road work and travel weather information for all Kansas and Nebraska highways and Kansas Turnpike routes.



511 Mobile - Visit <http://511mm.ksdot.org> by using your mobile device (Blackberries, Smart phones, etc.) to get a list of closed roads and driving conditions on the state highway system.

Safe drivers know the weather, and their limits. If the weather is bad, remember **Ice and Snow...Take It Slow**, or just don't go.

Vehicle Preparation – clear and inspect:

- ◆ Remove any snow on your vehicle's windows, lights, brake lights and signals. Make sure you can see and be seen.
- ◆ Check your vehicle's tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts, and hoses. A breakdown is bad on a good day and dangerous on a bad-weather day.

Time – Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.

First snow or Ice – Drivers aren't prepared for winter driving and forget to take it slow. Remember to drive well below the posted speed limit and leave plenty of room between cars.

Limited visibility – Stay attentive, reduce speed and know what's going on around you.

Reduce Speed and Proceed With Caution!

- ◆ When it snows, use your head not your feet. Slow down for wet, snowy, or icy conditions; when visibility is poor; or when conditions are changing or unpredictable. Don't turn your vehicle into an 'off-road vehicle' by driving too fast for conditions.
- ◆ Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle. When accelerating on snow or ice, take it slow to avoid slipping and sliding. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal.
- ◆ If your car loses traction and begins to slide, steer in the direction you want to go. Anticipate a second skid in the opposite direction as the car straightens out.
- ◆ Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice — a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface that may be difficult to see.
- ◆ Drivers should allow additional room between their vehicles and others. Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances. Leave extra room between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- ◆ Don't take chances when pulling out in front of approaching vehicles. Remember, they may not be able to slow down and you may not be able to accelerate as quickly as on dry pavement.
- ◆ Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of when your vehicle accelerates based on road conditions — don't let the cruise control make a bad decision for you.

Travel Safe!

Buckle up and properly secure children in safety seats

Stay attentive to your driving and avoid distractions

- ◆ Don't talk on your cell phone or use your mobile device (calling, texting, e-mailing) while driving

Drive with extra care and attention around snowplows

- ◆ Don't crowd the plow—give them room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.
- ◆ Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit—be patient.
- ◆ A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops or turns.

Winter Driving

Slow down for wet, snowy, icy conditions.

Avoid quick braking or acceleration.

Find out about driving conditions before you go.

Everytime - buckle up.

Turn signals, brake lights and windows need to be clear of snow.

You should never use cruise control in winter weather conditions.



Winter Storm Survival

If at all possible, listen to weather reports and get off the road before a winter storm strikes.

Prepare for Kansas winters by keeping a mini survival kit in your vehicle, including the following items at a minimum:

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| 1. Cellular phone | 7. Ice scraper | 13. Extra winter clothing |
| 2. Red flag | 8. Shovel | 14. Blankets |
| 3. Fusees/flares | 9. Sand or cat litter | 15. Non-perishable food |
| 4. Matches/lighter | 10. Traction mats | 16. Can opener |
| 5. Flashlight | 11. Tow rope or chain | 17. First Aid Kit |
| 6. Candles | 12. Jumper cables | 18. Metal coffee cans |

If you become stranded in a winter storm:

- ◆ **Do not panic** – Always work slowly to avoid overexertion. Attempting to push a vehicle or shovel even small amounts of snow may lead to a heart attack.
- ◆ **Stay in your vehicle** – Do not attempt to find help by walking. You can quickly become disoriented in blowing and drifting snow. Your car provides the best protection from the weather and you are more likely to be discovered by highway maintenance crews or law enforcement officers if you remain in your car.
- ◆ **Keep fresh air circulating** – Carbon monoxide can build up in a tightly closed vehicle, especially one sealed by blowing or drifting snow. Run the motor sparingly and open only the downwind window to provide proper ventilation.
- ◆ **Keep active** – Clap your hands and move your arms and legs vigorously from time to time to stimulate circulation, relieve muscle tension and help keep you awake.
- ◆ **Turn on your dome light** – The light will help you observe others in the car and make your car visible to passersby.
- ◆ **Do not permit all occupants of the vehicle to sleep at the same time.**

If you're stranded, call for help on your cell phone:

- ◆ If you're on an interstate, U.S. or Kansas highway, call *47. If you're on the Kansas Turnpike, call *KTA (582). Use these numbers to report an emergency, accident, vehicle breakdown, erratic driver, or criminal activity.
- ◆ If you have difficulty reaching these numbers, call 911.
- ◆ If you're stranded on a highway in the Kansas City, Topeka or Wichita areas, the Kansas Highway Patrol Motorist Assist Program (MAP) will send a service vehicle to help. MAP provides only basic services necessary for the safety of stranded motorists and roadway traffic.
- ◆ **Call 511 or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) for road condition and weather information.**

