



**WINTER DRIVING**

In case you haven't noticed, winter is on its way. That can mean fog, rain, ice, snow, slippery roads, and poor visibility. It's a time that can be dangerous for pedestrians, drivers, and other vehicle operators. There are some simple precautions you can take to minimize the risk of accidents and injuries.

This winter season, before you get into a vehicle, take a little extra time to make sure everything in and about the vehicle is in good condition and operating correctly.

- Are the windshield and side windows clear?
- Do the windshield wipers work?
- Are the blades in good condition?
- Can you see in all the mirrors?
- Are the headlights clean enough to allow for proper visibility?
- Do the tail and the brake lights work?
- Do the emergency lights work?
- Does the defroster work or is there so much on the dash that the defroster couldn't possibly work?
- Do the tires have good tread and adequate pressure?
- Are the brakes working properly?
- Is there more than a quarter tank of gas?
- Do you have emergency or repair equipment in the vehicle, including flashlights, flares, fire extinguishers, and chains where applicable?

Check all of these things before winter weather comes. Remember also to reduce driving speed on wet, muddy, oily, or icy roads and be especially alert for pedestrians and animals. It will make your driving experience easier and safer. Winter is inevitable and nothing can be done to avoid it. But preventive maintenance and extra caution can be important factors in accident prevention.