

Winter Driving – Are You Ready?

Contributed by OPP, photo by Katherine Grundt

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(Hearst, Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Cochrane, Moosonee, ONTARIO) – Winter weather conditions can be unpredictable, placing extra demands on your vehicle and your driving skills. Ensure you are well prepared for winter roads and always adjust your driving speed to existing conditions. In the winter, remember to stay alert, slow down, stay in control, maintain distance between vehicles and avoid the SKID hazard.

Be prepared — Are you ready?

- Have your vehicle put through a maintenance check-up
- Ensure your vehicle is mechanically ready for winter conditions
- Top up your vehicle's windshield washer fluid regularly
- Clear snow and ice off your vehicle
- Check your tires and tire pressure
- Keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle
- Notify a friend or family member of your destination and anticipated arrival time
- Turn on your vehicle's full lighting system while travelling
- Always move over for emergency vehicles

If you experience car trouble, please stay in your vehicle to avoid personal injury. If you are in an area with cell phone service and have a cell phone, use it only when necessary. When you need help, pull well off the road to make or receive a call. Remember, dialing 911 on your cell phone will connect you with the emergency services. Please use 1-888-310-1122 for non-emergencies.

Check weather and travel conditions before heading out. Don't take chances if the weather is bad. Allow yourself extra time for travel, or wait until conditions improve. Visit the ministry's Travellers' Road Information Portal website at: www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/traveller/trip or call the Ministry of Transportation Travellers' Information number for provincial highway information: 1-800-268-4686. This number is also listed in your local phone directory. The Weather Network is also updated regularly with current highway conditions.

Remember to be Road-Ready and Weather-Wise