

# Winter Driving Survival Tips

Reliable transportation is a must in winter.

The following precautions may help you avoid an unpleasant or dangerous situation while traveling.



In addition to winterizing your vehicle, you should carry a winter storm kit. The kit should contain:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| ✓ Sleeping bags or blankets | ✓ Flashlight and radio with extra batteries |
| ✓ Matches and candles       | ✓ A bag of sand and shovel                  |
| ✓ Winter clothing           | ✓ Tire chains and tools                     |
| ✓ Food                      | ✓ Windshield scraper                        |
| ✓ First-aid kit             | ✓ Jumper cables                             |
| ✓ Pocket knife              | ✓ Two metal coffee cans                     |
- Small supplies can be kept in the coffee cans and when you are stranded, one can be used for personal sanitation needs and the other to burn the candles in for heat.
  - When burning a candle, leave a down-wind window slightly open for air circulation and ventilation. Carbon monoxide poisoning can happen without the victim being aware of it until it's too late.

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## TIPS TO REMEMBER...

1. **Increase** your following distance. Ice or snow can increase your stopping distance from 3 to 10 times.
2. **Avoid** a collision by intentionally steering your vehicle off the road and into a snowbank in an emergency situation.
3. **See and be seen.** Clean snow off all windows, mirrors, lights, and reflectors.



## IF A BLIZZARD TRAPS YOU IN YOUR VEHICLE:

Being stuck or stranded in a South Dakota winter storm can become a question of survival; it is serious business and you and your vehicle must be prepared.

**Stay inside the vehicle.** Do not attempt to walk in a blizzard. Disorientation comes quickly in blowing or drifting snow. You are more likely to be found in your vehicle.

**Be aware of carbon monoxide.** Burn candles and run the engine and heater sparingly, and only with a down-wind window slightly open for ventilation. Make sure that snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe.

**Insulate.** Blankets, extra clothing, floor mats, and even newspapers and road maps can be used for extra warmth.

**Avoid overexertion and exposure.** Exertion from attempting to push your stuck vehicle, shoveling heavy snow, and performing other tasks during strong winds, blinding snow, and the bitter cold may cause a heart attack... even for a person in apparently good physical condition.