



WINTER IS HERE- ARE YOU PREPARED?

Like it or not, winter is here in Illinois. In fact, it decided to make a very early appearance this year, and according to the Farmers' Almanac, we are in store for a frozen, snowy winter. AccuWeather is also predicting frigid temps!

Although we don't recommend driving at all in snowy/icy conditions, if you find that you must venture out, here are some winter weather driving tips:

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Most importantly, GO SLOW!

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Give snowplows plenty of room!
- Leave early!

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"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."-- Raymond Chandler