



10 TIPS TO ... TRAVEL SMART

According to the National Weather Service, 70% of winter deaths happen in cars ... so **TRAVEL SMART!**

- ① **GET YOUR CAR A "CHECK-UP"** before the weather gets ugly. Make sure your battery is fully charged, all the lights are working, and there is sufficient antifreeze in the heating/cooling system. Check that your tires are in good shape and your brakes are working well.
- ② **MAKE SURE YOUR WIPERS WORK.** Replace worn blades that streak the windshield. Keep the washer reservoir bottle filled with antifreeze solvent.
- ③ **PAY ATTENTION TO WEATHER REPORTS.** Don't travel if there's a winter storm warning. If you must travel, tell someone your destination, route, and when you expect to arrive.
- ④ **KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT IN YOUR CAR** that includes:
 - ✓ Large flashlight and extra batteries
 - ✓ Bottled water and non-perishable, high energy foods such as granola or cereal bars, peanut butter & crackers, dried fruit and trail mix
 - ✓ Shovel, basic tools, flares, jumper cables, extra fluids, bulbs, etc
 - ✓ Ice scraper/snow brush and a small snow shovel
 - ✓ Sleeping bag or blanket
 - ✓ First aid kit and manual
 - ✓ Tire repair kit and pump
 - ✓ Small fire extinguisher
 - ✓ State and county maps
 - ✓ Bag of cat litter or sand for traction under the tires
- ⑤ **BE PREPARED** for poor road conditions. Watch for ice patches hidden by shadows or overpasses. Slippery roads require longer stopping distances so keep extra space between your car and the car in front of you.
- ⑥ **BE A SAFE DRIVER.** Avoid driving while fatigued, after drinking alcohol or taking cold medications. Wear sunglasses to combat the glare of snow and sunshine. During a nighttime snow storm, switch your lights to low beams. Use your seatbelt every time you get in the car!
- ⑦ **IF YOUR CAR GETS STUCK IN THE SNOW** and you keep the engine and heater running, open a window slightly and clear snow away from the exhaust pipe to vent carbon monoxide. Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- ⑧ **STOP SAFELY.** Squeeze the brake pedal down until you feel the brakes are about to lock - let up and squeeze again. If you begin to skid, keep your foot OFF the gas and OFF the brake.
- ⑨ **FILL'ER UP!** Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up (and the possibility of running out of gas in an unanticipated traffic jam).
- ⑩ **MAXIMIZE VISIBILITY.** Clean snow off the *entire* car - hood, roof, trunk, lights and windows. Turn the heater on for a minute or two before using the defroster to prevent moisture from fogging the windshield.

