

# CAMPUS SAFETY ADVISORY



Monday, December 17, 2001

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This is a Winter Driving advisory for all members of the Wellesley College community. Please help us distribute this information by e-mailing this notice to friends and colleagues or by posting it on bulletin boards located throughout the campus.

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Before heading out for trips during this winter season, take time to ensure you arrive at your destination safely:

- Make sure your breaks, windshield wipers, defroster, heater and exhaust system are in top condition.
- Check your antifreeze and be ready for colder temperatures. You may want to add special solvent to your windshield washer reservoir to prevent icing.
- Check your tires. Make sure they are properly inflated and the thread is in good condition
- Carry chains if you intend to drive in areas that receive several inches of snow consistently. Make sure you chains are the proper size for your tires and are in working order. Carry chain repair links. Chain must be installed on the drive wheels. Make sure you know if your vehicle is front or rear wheel drive.
- Always carry an extra key on your person.
- Allow enough time. Trips in winter weather can take longer than during other times of year, especially if you encounter storm conditions or icy roads. Get an early start and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Keep your gas tank full. It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a bad storm or you may be caught in a traffic delay.
- Keep your windshield and windows clear. You may want to stop at a safe rest stop or turnout to use a snow or ice scraper. Use the car defroster and a clean cloth to keep the windows free of fog.
- Slow down. A highway speed of 55 miles per hour may be safe in dry weather but an invitation for trouble on snow and ice. Snow and ice make stopping distances much longer, so keep your seat belt buckled and leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. Bridge decks can be icy when other areas are not. Remember to avoid sudden stops and quick direction changes.
- Be more observant. Visibility is often limited in winter by weather conditions. Slow down and watch other vehicles and for snow equipment. Even though snow removal vehicles have flashing lights, visibility may be so restricted during a storm that it is difficult to see the slow moving equipment.
- When stalled, stay with your vehicle and try to conserve fuel while maintaining warmth. Be alert to possible exhaust or monoxide problems.
- Make sure you prepare your winter driving kit. The kit should include the following items:
  - \* Ice scraper, commercial deicer, and a broom for brushing off your vehicle.
  - \* A shovel to free your vehicle if its snowed in.
  - \* Sand or burlap for traction if wheels should become mired in snow.
  - \* Water, food, warm blankets, and extra clothing.
  - \* Flares and a warning triangle.
  - \* Flashlight with extra batteries.
  - \* Cellular phone with charger.
  - \* Old towel to clean your hands.