



US Army Reserve Safety Awareness



Winter Driving

FOCUS ON Driving

Winter Driving Preparedness

Winter Driving Safety

Driving safely in winter weather can be a challenge for even the most experienced driver. It's easy to forget after months of mild conditions that snow and ice demand careful driving and special preparation for your vehicle.

Ready Your Vehicle

Driving safely begins before you even get on the road. Regular tune-ups and maintenance are the starting point for safe driving year-round. In winter, pay special attention to your vehicle's battery, wipers, coolant, tires, and other systems that can take a beating when the temperature drops. When you know your vehicle is ready for the road, clear your car of snow, ice or dirt from the windows, forward sensors, headlights, tail lights, and backup camera.

Ready Yourself

Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered road. Increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you. Also remember that every vehicle handles differently; this is particularly true when driving on wet, icy or snowy roads. Before heading out, know the weather and traffic conditions, and plan your route accordingly. Give yourself more time to get where you're going because you'll be driving more slowly in inclement weather.

Ready for an Emergency

Even if you and your vehicle are prepared, crashes happen. Vehicles break down. Any of us can get caught out in the elements and help might not be just around the corner. Make sure your vehicle is stocked to help get you out of trouble or to keep you safe until help arrives. Keep blankets, flashlights, jumper cables, and flares or emergency lights in your vehicle. Even if you don't need them, they can be used to help someone else in need on the road.

Safe Driving: Rain, Sleet, Snow or Otherwise

Winter driving demands special care; safe driving is a year-round habit. You and everyone in your vehicle should be wearing seat belts for every ride. Children should be in age- and size-appropriate child seats. Never drive after drinking. Never drive when distracted by an electronic device or anything else. Those are the essentials for safe driving, whatever the weather.