



# Driving in Snow and Ice

## SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

- \* If you don't have to drive — don't! But if you must, drive defensively and smart.
- \* Before beginning your trip, know the current road conditions. Call your local highway administration or state transportation department 1-800-367-ROAD.
- \* Be alert for potential driving hazards including fallen branches and trees, downed electric lines and icy areas, such as shady spots and bridges.
- \* Leave a few minutes early to allow extra time to get to your destination.
- \* Slow down. Triple the usual distance between your car and the one ahead.
- \* Stay in the plowed lane; avoid driving over the ridges between the plowed areas. If you must switch lanes, slow down, signal and move over slowly.
- \* Don't pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is absolutely necessary.
- \* Don't park along the street. Snowplow drivers can't fully clear a road if cars are in their way.
- \* If you skid, steer into the skid. If the back of your car is skidding to the left, for example, turn the steering wheel to the left.
- \* Don't pump your brakes, and avoid locking them up. If your brakes lock, take your foot off the brake pedal for a moment.
- \* If your car has an anti-lock braking system (ABS) and you must brake, be sure to press the brake pedal and hold.
- \* If you're involved in a fender-bender, move the cars out of the lanes of travel.
- \* Keep an emergency winter driving kit with a blanket and flashlight in the car.
- \* While driving, keep your headlights on. Keep snow and ice off your mirrors, windows and lights.

[www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx)



Naval Safety Center  
375 A Street  
Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

Contact the Media Division  
(757) 444-3520 ext. 7870  
safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil