



Winter driving tips

As usually happens this time of year in Wisconsin, the snow is on its way! The forecast of snow is a good opportunity to review your safe winter driving habits. Here are some starters:

- Check the current road conditions before you leave.
- Review how to work the wipers, headlights and defroster.
- Clear snow and ice from all windows. Remember to do the headlights, tail lights, and mirrors, too.
- Go slow and try not to make sudden movements when you brake, change lanes, or turn.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do.
- Watch for slippery spots around bridges or from drifting snow.
- Leave extra room for stopping.
- Don't use the cruise control. Tapping the brake to turn it off can cause you to lose control of the vehicle.

One common thing drivers don't know about driving in snow is how to brake correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in slippery conditions, and larger vehicles need more stopping distance than smaller ones. Vehicles with 4-wheel drive may have better traction getting started but still need a longer distance to stop. If your car has anti-lock brakes do not pump the brakes to stop; instead keep braking steadily and steer out of the situation.

For more info on winter driving, visit www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers or contact Carissa Hoium at choium@chw.org or 414-231-4928. Please also visit www.crossroadsteendiving.org for more info about teen driver safety!