

### ***Ready or Not – Winter Driving is here!***



Bitter cold, slippery roads, and unpredictable weather are just a few elements we can expect in Nova Scotia, making road travel risky. We can't control the weather, but we can control our driving and be prepared.

Most importantly, if the weather is nasty, the safest decision is to delay any travelling and stay put until road conditions improve. If you really must drive, check for public messages on local radio stations or the following from NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal:

Highway Cameras: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/cameras>

Phone Road Conditions Reporting Service: **Dial 511**

Website Road Conditions: <http://511.gov.ns.ca/map>

Stay on main roads and drive carefully – slow down and put more distance between you and vehicles ahead! Good quality winter tires can provide extra traction. Check tire conditions and pressure at least once/month (air pressure will decrease in cold weather). Keep your gas tank topped up as much as possible. Clear all snow from hood, roof, windows and lights. Do not drive until all windows are clear of any fog and frost. If visibility becomes poor, find a safe place to pull over as soon as possible. Maintain a well-stocked winter driving emergency kit that includes at least the following:

- ❖ bag of sand, salt, or kitty litter
- ❖ snow shovel
- ❖ snow brush and ice scraper
- ❖ blanket, extra clothes (hat, wind pants, warm footwear)
- ❖ first aid kit
- ❖ flashlight, warning devices, flares or emergency lights
- ❖ snack bars, other emergency food, water
- ❖ matches, emergency candles
- ❖ extra jug of windshield washer fluid rated for winter

If you are stranded, DON'T PANIC. Use all means possible to summons for help and stay safe and warm in your vehicle. If it is necessary to leave your vehicle, be sure it is safe before doing so. As much as possible, avoid overexertion or exposure to cold temperatures. Take precautions to ensure you vehicle can be seen using the vehicle lights or external emergency lights. If you use an emergency candle, or idle your vehicle, always open a window slightly to ensure a supply of fresh air.

Safe travels!