

Driving safely on winter roads

By: Safety National/BLR

Winter is here, and with it comes icy, dicey winter roads. What can you do to keep yourself safe?

- Always buckle up before driving.
- Check to make sure there are no car warning lights lit up on your dashboard.
- Test your brakes before you drive away. Pump them repeatedly, and stomp on them to initiate antilock braking. Occasionally, use your emergency brake when parking to keep it in good working condition.
- Clean all exterior lights to improve visibility.
- Keep windshield wiper blades clean to prevent streaking. Make sure your windshield washer reserve is full.
- Don't idle with the windows up or inside an enclosed space, like a garage.
- Always steer into—and not in the opposite direction of—a skid.
- Drive slowly, and increase your distance between cars on the road.
- Turn on your lights when driving in inclement weather.
- Get off the road to a safe place if weather conditions get bad enough that it is unsafe to continue your journey.
- If your car stalls or gets stuck, stay with your car; don't over exert yourself; put bright markers on your antenna or windows; and if you run your car, clear the exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm