

City of Saint Paul Labor Management Safety Committee

November 17, 2010

Winter Driving Survival Tips

Winter. The word alone brings a chill to everyone. It evokes thoughts of snow, ice, and usually, cold. Unfortunately, it normally means more problems for Minnesota drivers as well.

- A good rule of thumb is to always keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid any problems with water getting into your gas line.
- Keep close tabs on the weather, especially if you are planning on traveling. Let someone know your destination and route, and expected arrival time in inclement weather.
- If your car was outside during a snowstorm – make sure to brush it off – COMPLETELY – before departing. Snow left on the hood will blow onto the windshield and block your vision. Snow left on the rest of the vehicle will blow onto other vehicles and block their vision. Make sure both your headlights and taillights are visible on your vehicle.
- Adjust your speed for the conditions and increase your following distance between vehicles.
- If you become stranded while in your vehicle – DO NOT LEAVE your car. Your chances of being rescued are greater if you stay in one place. Staying in your vehicle – especially if you use the items in your emergency kit from last week's safety message – will decrease your risk of frostbite or hypothermia. Run your engine for heat about once an hour. Make sure the exhaust pipe is clear to avoid carbon monoxide. Leave one window slightly open. Tie a piece of brightly colored cloth to your antenna to alert others to your presence.
- Take note of where you are as you drive so if you become stranded, you can relay your location to a 911 dispatcher. Stay calm and stay safe!

Remember: Safety is No Accident!
Information courtesy of the Minnesota Safety Council