

Winter Driving Safety Tips:

First – do you really need to go? Remember that every day Saskatchewan residents face the risk of being injured or killed while driving. Driving in winter conditions can put you at even greater risk. Ask yourself if the trip can be delayed perhaps by just 24 hours. If you must go, make sure that you work through these steps:



1. **Prepare your vehicle** for winter driving by checking your windshield wipers to make sure that they operate correctly. Ensure that your engine anti-freeze/coolant has the right protection factor. Keep your fuel tank level at least half full. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and have proper tread for winter driving.
2. **Check the current road conditions and weather forecast.** Listen to the radio, check the weather channel or visit the highway hotline at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/transportation/highways/highway-hotline>. Again, ask yourself is it safe to go?
3. **Plan your route ahead of time.** Avoid any roads that may become dangerous during bad weather. Respect road closure signs and barriers and do not attempt to drive on these routes until they are re-opened.
4. **Leave lots of time so you're not rushing to get to where you need to be.** Try to travel during daylight and consider delaying your trip if the weather is bad.
5. **Communicate** by letting someone know your route, planned arrival time and location. Make sure your contact information is known by someone at the University.
6. **Learn winter road skills.** If you are unfamiliar with driving in snow and icy conditions consider taking a winter driving course. Through training and practice, learn how to brake safely, how to get out of a skid, and how your car handles in winter weather. Courses are available through the Saskatchewan Safety Council <http://www.sasksafety.org/programs/defensivedriving/>
7. **Keep at least four seconds distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.** This will allow plenty of room in situations where you may need to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.
8. **Wear comfortable clothing that doesn't restrict your movement while driving.** Bring warm clothing (winter boots, coat, gloves and hat) with you in case you need to get out of your vehicle.
9. **Have an emergency plan.** Prior to departure check with your cell phone provider to verify that service is available. If you get stuck or stranded, don't panic. Stay with your vehicle for safety and warmth. In case of an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, call for roadside assistance.
10. **Keep your vehicle stocked with simple emergency equipment.** Keep these items in your vehicle: blanket or extra clothes, candle with matches, snacks, beverages (never alcohol), flares, cellular phone charger, a small shovel, flashlight, windshield scraping device, tow rope, bag of sand or cat litter for traction and long jumper/booster cables.