

WATCHOUT



DELHI TOWNSHIP POLICE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Winter 2010

WINTER DRIVING TIPS!

Winter driving can present troublesome challenges for even the most diligent drivers. Snow and ice make driving more difficult and sometimes even dangerous. Special care must be given to your car before the winter season appears and extra caution must be used once winter has invaded the roadways.

When driving in the snow, do everything slowly and gently. Even if you maintain control of your car, not everyone else will. So, don't get lulled into a false sense of security. Remember, in the snow, tires just barely grab the road. Accelerate, turn and brake slowly and gently. To do this, you have to anticipate turns and stops, slowing down enough to make turns before you get to them, leaving plenty of distance between you and other cars.

Slippery roads are the biggest hazard of winter driving – caused by ice, slushy snow or rain. Roads are especially slick following the first rain after a dry spell since oil and grease have built up on the roads.

Remember the distance it takes to bring your car to a stop on dry pavement. In winter conditions, allow at least three times that distance to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. This means a safe distance behind the car in front of you should be three times as far. And you must begin braking three times as far away from the stoplight or corner where you turn. Reduce the danger of skidding by driving more slowly and by pumping the brakes as you slow down for a turn rather than holding them down. Use low gears on slick surfaces, especially hills and curves. Test your brakes frequently and never tailgate.

If in spite of your precautions, you find yourself beginning to skid, **DO NOT BRAKE**. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator and gently turn your car in the direction you want your front wheels to go.

Hitting the brakes or turning sharply will only lock out into a skid. If you can't get control of your car, it is better to steer into a snow bank or fence than risk a collision in traffic.

Visibility is another hazard of winter driving. In heavy snow, keep your lights on. Stop and clean your windshield and lights if necessary. Get off the road before you become stranded by worsening conditions.

If you get stuck in the snow, avoid spinning your wheels – you'll only dig in deeper. Instead, shovel snow away from the wheel paths and pour salt, sand or cinders around the drive wheels to improve traction.

KEY SAFETY TIPS:

- **Keep your car or truck in top shape**
- **Allow extra time and space on the road**
- **Listen to the weather forecast**
- **Sometimes the best winter driving strategy is to stay home.**

The leading cause of death during winter storms is motor vehicle crashes. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

KEEP THESE ITEMS IN YOUR CAR:

- Flashlight w/ extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets
- Extra newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags for sanitation
- Matches
- Extra sets of gloves, hats and socks
- Snow gear and extra clothes
- Small sack of sand for generating traction
- Small shovel
- Small tools (Pliers, wrench, screwdriver, etc.)
- Booster cables
- Set of tire chains or traction mats.
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Bottled water
- Snacks

Auto Theft / Thefts from Vehicles

Delhi, along with police agencies throughout the tri-state area have been seeing an increase of auto thefts as well as valuables being stolen from motor vehicles. Here are a few safety tips to assist you to avoid being an easy target:

- **Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it's in front of your home.**
- **Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight. Buy radios that can be removed and locked in the trunk.**
- **Do not leave a spare key in your vehicle.**
- **Carry the registration and insurance cards with you. Do not leave any personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle.**
- **When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave just the ignition key with the attendant.**
- **Report any suspicious activity to the police.**

Most of the reports that our agency has been taking are those in which valuables are taken out of unlocked vehicles. Surprisingly, folks are leaving laptops, digital cameras, large books of compact discs, cash, GPS units and other items of substantial value in unlocked vehicles.



Roadway Safety:

We as a police agency would like to join the rest of our traffic safety partners in wishing you a safe and Happy New Year.

Here are the top ten New Year's Resolutions to assist you in operating your vehicle safer:

1. *To always wear my seat belt*
2. *To make sure everyone in my vehicle is buckled up*
3. *To not let others drink and drive*
4. *To never drink and drive*
5. *To use common sense by paying attention when I drive and to drive responsibly*
6. *To be courteous to other drivers and to use my turn signals*
7. *To give myself plenty of time and not to rush*
8. *To give myself plenty of distance between me and the vehicle in front of me*
9. *To slow down and move over when approaching an emergency vehicle on the side of the road*
10. *To yield to pedestrians*

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES:

We all hear about a Level 1, 2 or 3 but exactly what does that mean?

Level 1 Emergency: Roads are hazardous and people should drive with caution.

Level 2 Emergency: Driving is discouraged and you should call before heading to work.

Level 3 Emergency: Only emergency vehicles should be on the roads. People could be prosecuted if they decide to drive on local roads.

When considering driving during this winter season, please be aware of the weather where you will be traveling to and drive accordingly. Snow, ice, sleet and slush can all play havoc with your trip.

For information on the Blockwatch Program Contact:

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