

Governor Ted Strickland



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Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Commerce-State Fire Marshal
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Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
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Ohio Insurance Institute

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Tune-up Your Car and Driving Skills Before Winter Weather Arrives in Ohio
Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 16-22

Columbus, OH – You drive over a patch of black ice, do you know what to do? Your tires are bald, it's icy outside - is it safe to drive? Your car breaks down in a desolate area – do you have the proper items in your vehicle to survive? Being prepared for winter weather also pertains to your vehicle and knowing how to drive in blustery weather.

“If you must be out during a severe winter storm, knowing how to operate a vehicle can help you arrive to your location safely,” said Daniel J. Kelso, Ohio Insurance Institute president. “Make sure your vehicle is in proper working order before heading out and have a safety kit in the vehicle in the event of an emergency.”

OII is one of 13 members comprising the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

Make sure you get a car winter tune-up now, prior to severe winter weather. Tune-ups should include:

- Tire check – consider snow or all-season tires if tread is worn
- Battery test – check your battery’s strength. You don’t want to be stranded in severe weather
- Wiper blades check and replacement, if needed
- Radiator, engine and all fluid levels check
- Brake line and pad inspection
- Head- and brake-light and turn signal inspections

Also, keep an extra gallon of window washer fluid in the trunk – bad weather can occur suddenly and catch you off guard. Good vision is critical, especially when driving in bad weather conditions.

Prepare a winter emergency kit for each vehicle and keep it in the trunk. Kits should include:

- Two blankets or sleeping bags
- Waterproof matches and candles
- Extra clothing – especially boots, mittens and hats
- Dry food rations, like raisins, nuts and candy
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- First-aid kit and a supply of necessary medications
- Emergency flares

“Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness”

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

- Cell phone and vehicle battery charger
- A brightly colored cloth for use as a signal for assistance
- A steel shovel and rope to use as a lifeline
- A few large plastic garbage bags – which take little space, but could be used as insulation to block the wind if forced to leave a stranded vehicle

Some tips to keep in mind while traveling in winter:

- Check weather reports prior to departing and allow extra travel time for weather and/or traffic delays
- Know how your vehicle reacts on slick roads...front-wheel drive vehicles generally handle better than rear-wheel drive
- If the vehicle is equipped with an **Anti-lock Braking System**, be sure to **STOMP** (firmly depress brake pedal), **STAY** (on the brakes – don't pump brakes) and **STEER** (where you want the vehicle to go).

With ABS, it's normal to hear noise and feel the brake pedal vibrate while applying continual pressure.

- Clear all windows (inside and out) and all headlights, brake lights and turn signals
- Allow ample stopping distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you. Stopping time and distance increase greatly on wet and slippery surfaces
- Stay alert for "black ice" and other slippery road surfaces on bridges
- If severe weather is possible, it's best to stay off the roads. If you must leave, be sure to advise those at your destination of a departure time, anticipated arrival time, and the planned travel route. Also, provide a cell phone number in case they need to contact you.

The Ohio Insurance Institute is a trade association representing insurance companies and agent groups for the property/casualty industry. Its main objective is to increase understanding of insurance and related safety issues.

Members of the **Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness** include American Red Cross; National Weather Service; Ohio News Network; Emergency Management Association of Ohio; Ohio Citizen Corps; Ohio Insurance Institute; Ohio Emergency Management, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety; Ohio Department of Commerce – State Fire Marshal; and the Ohio Departments of Aging, Education, Health, Insurance and Natural Resources.

For additional information on safe driving tips and severe weather preparedness, visit Ohio Insurance Institute: www.ohioinsurance.org
Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

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