

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Driving in cold weather presents weather-related driving hazards. So, as you enter your vehicle this winter, keep safety a priority. Here are some winter driving tips to keep in mind:

- Stopping distance on a snowy/icy surface can be as much as 10 times that of a dry road, so drive with extra caution on slick or snowy surfaces
- Turn your headlights on during periods of low visibility.
- Wear your safety belts. Secure children under four in a child safety seat.
- Allow extra time for winter trips. If you are running late, take it easy.
- It is a Maryland law that one completely clear ice and snow from all windows, mirrors, and windshield. Do not go down the road with only a peephole to see through. Fort Detrick police will cite this infraction.
- Clear all snow off the hood and roof of the vehicle so that snow does not blow onto the windshield or rear window obscuring vision.
- It is a good idea to carry an emergency kit which may include an ice scraper, a brush, jumper cables, a shovel, a tow chain, tire chains, rock salt or kitty litter for traction, a blanket, gloves and a flashlight.

Make sure that your vehicle is mechanically sound. The following checklist will help to ensure a safe trip each day this winter:

- Cold weather is especially demanding on batteries. Check and replace your battery if needed.
- Install all-weather tires or snow tires and check to see that tire pressure is at your owner's manual recommendation.
- Test your antifreeze against your owner's manual recommendations.
- Check the integrity of your exhaust system for leaks into the passenger area.
- Be sure your wiper blades are in good condition.

If you have any questions or would like more information on driving safety, please contact EHS at X1451.