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COLD WEATHER DRIVING

Cold weather brings its own driving hazards. Prepare for them.

One is simply the effect of cold on the vehicle. Some vehicles are hard to start, and will stall easily. When pulling away from a curb to enter the flow of traffic, or entering a highway, this can be a dangerous problem. Allow more room and more time entering the traffic stream until your vehicle reaches its normal operating temperature. And watch out - another vehicle may stall in front of you.

Morning frost may coat vehicle windows and mirrors. Clean it off, so your vision will not be limited. And watch out for the other driver who has not cleared his glass and may not be able to see everything. Take time to check those things on the vehicle that you depend on in cold weather such as defrosters, lighting system, condition of tires, etc.

A clean windshield, efficient windshield wipers, clean lenses on all lights, clean and properly placed rear-view mirrors are all necessary for a clear and unobstructed view of the road.

Adverse weather conditions should govern your speed. You need a lot more stopping distance on packed snow or ice than you do on dry pavement – even if you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Roadways may be slippery with frost as well as with snow, ice, and rain. Frost or light ice may occur in the early morning and late afternoon as temperatures drop. Curves may be surprisingly slippery. Shaded areas may be glazed. Slow down. Also, remember to accelerate or decelerate gradually; it is rapid changes of speed that tend to start a skid.

Bridges and highway ramps tend to freeze before road surfaces. Approach them cautiously.

Remember - allow extra room behind the vehicle in front of you and be alert for signs that other vehicles are in trouble. Their mistakes can become your accident.