


WINTER EMERGENCY KIT

Winterizing your car is an important car care tip in preparation for the winter driving season. Have your exhaust system, washer fluid, emergency signals, headlights, tires and brakes checked. Winterizing your vehicle could keep you out of an accident.

After your vehicle is ready for winter, prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your vehicle. This kit should contain the following items you may need in case of an emergency while on the road:

- A snow shovel 
- Jumper cables
- Scraper & small broom
- Emergency Flares
- Tow chains or a tow strap
- Sand or cat litter to use for traction
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid supplies with pocket knife
- Warm clothing, and sleeping bags or blankets
- Cell phone with adapter
- High-energy food such as nuts, dried fruit and candy
- Water
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a commercial radio



Ashland County Emergency Management

220 Sixth Street East

Ashland, WI, 54806

715-685-7640 ext 456

www.ashlandcountysheriff.us



Winter Weather Campaign

Ashland County Highway Department

39181 State Highway 13

PO Box 25

Highbridge, WI 54846

715-274-3662

www.co.ashland.wi.us

Navigating Winter Roads in Northern Wisconsin



Tandem Plow Truck Versus Minivan

SNOWPLOW WINS EVERY TIME



TRAVEL PREPAREDNESS

Before you take a trip, tell someone where you are going, the route you intend to take and when you expect to arrive.

Check the road conditions. WisDOT has a 511 telephone service and an online map system (www.511wi.gov) detailing road conditions. The goal is to achieve “passable roadways” during a winter storm. In northern Wisconsin, snow plow operations usually will not exceed an 18-hour shift.

Carry a winter emergency kit in your vehicle.

Check the weather forecast.



STAY INFORMED

Winter Storm Watch: Winter storm conditions (heavy snow, sleet & freezing rain) are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Continually monitor the weather forecast.

Winter Storm, Ice Storm, or Lake Effect

Snow Warning: A significant winter event is occurring or will begin in the next 24 hours. Take the necessary precautions—consider canceling travel plans.

Blizzard Warning: Winds 35 mph or greater, blowing snow with reduced visibility to 1/4 mile or less for a duration of at least 3 hours and dangerous wind chills are expected.

Wind Chill Advisory: Issued for wind chills between -25° to -40° combined with winds greater than 4 mph for three hours or more.

Wind Chill Warning: Issued for wind chills below -40° or colder combined with winds greater than 4 mph for three hours or more.

SNOW PLOW SAFETY



THE LAW: **STAY BACK 200 FEET**
(WI §346.915)

DON'T

Don't tailgate! Stopping distances on winter roads often increase due to decreased traction.

Don't stop too close behind a stopped snow plow. The driver could be preparing to back up and may not see you.

Don't pass a snow plow on the right by driving on the shoulder of the road. The snow plow's wing blade can extend up to 10 ft. beyond the width of the truck.

DO'S

Be Patient! Snow plows typically travel at speeds between 25-35 mph.

Leave room for the snow plows to do their job.

Buckle Up! (WI §347.48)

Watch out for the snow plow blade along the centerline.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Always keep your headlights, taillights and all windows clear of snow and ice so you can see from all directions.

Speed limits **should** be determined by road conditions as opposed to the posted highway speed.

Do not use cruise control in wintry conditions. Use your feet and keep your own “feel” for the road.

When temperatures drop, use gas line deicer in your gas tank and carry a spare bottle in your trunk. Keep your gas tank at least 1/2 full to prevent gas line freeze-up.

Being a safe driver means understanding the brake system on your vehicle. Press firmly until you stop with anti-lock brakes; if you don't have anti-lock brakes, squeeze and release the brakes until you come to a complete stop.

Steer into the direction of the skid.

A snow plow creates a swirl of snow which can blind the driver of a car following or even a car approaching from another direction. Be cautious and courteous and pass **only** when it is **completely safe**.

If you are caught in a snow storm or blizzard and become stalled on the road, try to get your vehicle off the road so snow plows can get through. In rural areas, it is best to stay in your car and keep warm until help arrives. Run your engine for short periods, just long enough to stay warm, and leave a window cracked open to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

SNOW = SLOW !