



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Be safe on the roads as winter weather heads to North Carolina

Raleigh, N.C. – January 6, 2017 – Much of North Carolina could see winter weather with the possibility of snow, sleet, and freezing rain this weekend. Freezing conditions with ice and snow can present a number of different risks, especially on roadways.

“Everyone is encouraged to be extra careful on the roads this weekend as temperatures are expected to drop below freezing and frozen precipitation makes its way into the state,” said Russ Dubisky, a spokesman for the Insurance Federation of North Carolina (IFNC).

Winter weather driving safety tips:

- Drive slowly when roads are wet, especially if there is a possibility of ice or snow. Accelerating, stopping and turning all take longer in slick conditions. Remember that “black ice” is almost invisible – making it difficult to detect and avoid.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for gaining traction and avoiding skids. Also, allow plenty of time to slow down before stopping.
- Leave more distance than usual between you and the car ahead of you, giving yourself at least 10 seconds to come to a complete stop.
- Watch out when driving over bridges, overpasses or roads rarely exposed to sunlight, as they may be icy when other roads are not.
- Keep the windshield and windows clear. Be sure to clean off your headlights and tail lights also.
- Do not activate cruise control or overdrive when driving on a slippery surface.

Prepare your car:

- Have your car serviced regularly to prevent the chance of being stranded in the cold.
- Make sure your battery and charging system are in good shape. Batteries lose power as the temperature drops.
- Check the cooling system and make sure the antifreeze will protect your car. As a reminder, not all vehicles use the same antifreeze. So, research the type of antifreeze that works best for your vehicle. Make sure the windshield wipers are in good shape and be sure to turn your wipers off before you shut off the engine. This will help prevent your windshield wipers from freezing to the windshield.
- Make sure the rear windshield defroster is working properly.

- Keep your tires properly inflated and remember that good tread is essential to safe winter driving.
- Fill up your gas tank so that you don't run out in heavy traffic or on detours. Having a full tank of gas helps prevent the gas-line from freezing.

Other important tips:

- Keep basic supplies in your car in case you are stranded. Keep an ice scraper, snow brush, blanket, boots, dry snacks, water and extra clothing in your vehicle. A shovel and a bag of sand or cat litter might come in handy with traction in case your vehicle is stuck.
- Make sure your automobile insurance is up to date and remember that comprehensive and collision, which are optional coverages, provide protection from damages to your own vehicle.

For more information from the Insurance Federation of North Carolina, or to schedule an interview, call (919)539-1375.

The Insurance Federation of North Carolina (IFNC) is a trade association established in 2004 by the leading property and casualty insurance companies doing business in North Carolina. IFNC serves as the voice for the industry on legislative and regulatory matters and promotes consumer awareness on issues of importance to the property and casualty insurance industry.

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