



Check weather forecasts and road reports regularly.
The Kansas statewide toll-free road condition hotline is:

1-866-511-KDOT(5368)
on the web
www.kanroad.org

Emergency Cellular Numbers

If you become stranded and have a cellular phone, the following toll-free numbers will, in most areas, connect you with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

On Kansas Highways dial *47 (*HP)

On the Kansas Turnpike dial *582 (*KTA)

In the event of a highway emergency you may also dial 911 on your cellular phone for assistance.



www.KansasHighwayPatrol.org
Support Services Section
122 S.W. 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603
(10/02)

Driving in Winter Weather



Winter driving in Kansas can be a challenging and hazardous experience. But, with planning and preparation you can overcome these hazards and make Kansas highways a safer place for you and other drivers.

Common sense is the key. Monitoring the weather, traveling only when necessary, keeping your speed down and driving defensively can help you safely complete your trip.

Common sense and planning will see you through.

Driving in winter conditions can be dangerous, especially for those of us who have become “rusty” at this task during the warmer seasons. With winter now upon us, we need to again familiarize ourselves with the basic safe winter driving tips. Driving on snow and ice demands concentration, awareness, skill and preparedness. The following are a few suggestions that will insure a safer winter driving season.



Prepare your vehicle for winter travel. Just as cold affects the human body, it also affects metal, rubber and other materials in your car.



Check your car's fluids. Make sure that your radiator is winterized and that you have a full tank of windshield washing fluid. Keep your vehicle's fuel tank above the one-half mark.



Ensure that your tires have adequate tread. Traction is an extremely important factor in winter driving.



Equip your car with good wiper blades. They will wear quickly in the cold and excessive ice of Kansas winters.



Have your car's exhaust system checked. Small leaks can lead to carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas, entering the passenger compartment. Small amounts can lead to drowsiness and have fatal consequences.



Checking belts, hoses and brake systems for excessive wear can save time, heartache and in some cases lives.



Increase following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you. Ice and snow significantly increase your stopping distances.



Make time to leave earlier in the morning for work or appointments in order to adjust for the inevitable delays due to slower traffic speeds and collisions. Hurried motorists only further complicate the situation.



Accelerate and brake gently. Make turns slowly and gradually especially in heavily traveled areas like intersections that may become icy from snow that has melted and refrozen. A light foot on the gas is less likely to produce wheel slipping on ice and snow. Braking is best accomplished by an easy pumping action of the pedal. If your vehicle has an anti-lock braking system (ABS), it is imperative that you understand how to use it. Reading the vehicle owner's manual or checking with your dealership will provide more information on this subject.



Visibility both from the vehicle and of the vehicle are very important. Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors and lights. Use headlights when conditions dictate.



Steer toward the direction you want to go if your car loses traction and begins to slide. Anticipate a second skid in the opposite direction as the car straightens out.