



Maryland State Highway Administration Winter Driving Safety Tips

New Laws: All occupants of a vehicle (back seats) must be buckled.

NO handheld mobile phone use or texting behind the wheel – drivers can now be pulled over and cited for handheld phone use while driving.

- During a snow storm don't drive if you don't have to.
- “Don't Crowd the Plow” – NEVER pass a snow plow or plow train (a series of plows working in tandem). If driving behind a snow plow or salt truck, provide plenty of space (at least 7-8 car lengths) behind the truck.
- “Know Before you Go.” Call 511 or 1-855-GOMD511 or visit: www.md511.org for current travel information.
- Remember – bridges, ramps and overpasses freeze first. Use caution when driving across them.
- Four-wheel drive vehicles are just as vulnerable to slipping on ice as regular two-wheel drive vehicles.
- Pack a winter driving survival kit – including a shovel, blanket, water, jumper cables, flares, snacks and a flash light.
- Before taking to the road, log onto www.roads.maryland.gov, click on the CHART icon and view live traffic cameras.
- Clear snow from your vehicle's headlights, roof and from other places that may obstruct vision or become a danger to other motorists.
- Make sure your vehicle is in proper working condition. Check the battery, tire tread and pressure, belts, hoses and fluid levels.
- Travel with plenty of gas in the tank.
- When shoveling snow, please do not place it in the street/roadway. Plow trucks push snow to the right. When facing your driveway, pile snow to your left, off the road. This reminder will save you additional hours of shoveling!

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