



Winter Weather Driving

Whether it's snow, sleet or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. Preparing yourself and your vehicle for winter weather is key.

- Plan your route carefully. If you use a GPS, ensure you are familiar with the route before driving.
- Ensure your vehicle has been serviced and your tires are in good condition. Consider winter tires if you are driving in areas where snow and ice are prevalent.
- Clear all snow and ice off your vehicle before driving. Driving with snow and ice on your car is dangerous and illegal.
- Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries, flares, a fire extinguisher, and a first aid kit in your vehicle.
- Stay alert and avoid traveling during late night hours, especially if in unfamiliar locations.
- Increase your following distance. Stay a **safe** distance behind the car in front of you no matter how many people cut in.
- Stay home. Only go out if necessary.

What to do in an emergency

- If you are stopped or stalled in winter weather, stay focused and pay attention to your surroundings.
- Let your car be seen by putting on your flashers. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.
- Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm. Don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

The Tacoma Police Department wishes you a safe winter driving season!