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!