Be Prepared for Winter Driving

Keep this Safety Checklist in mind before starting out in ice, snow, or extreme cold.

**Vehicle Condition:**
- Tires are properly inflated
- Tires have sufficient tread
- All lights work
- Windshield wipers work properly; blades are not worn
- Windshield washer works; reservoir is full
- Battery is charged and doesn't need replacement

**Emergency Equipment:**
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight
- Ice scraper
- Flare
- Blanket
- Shovel
- Sand or something to provide traction
Do’s and Don’ts of Winter Driving

Do:

- Drive slower than normal in slippery conditions.
- Increase the distance you would normally keep between your vehicle and other vehicles.
- Be prepared for skids by slowing down early on curves and downhill slopes.
- Keep your headlights on, both to help you see and to help other drivers see you.
- Stay alert and well rested—take breaks if necessary.
- Drive defensively—many drivers become frightened or disoriented in winter conditions, causing them to make unsafe maneuvers.
- Wear your seat belt.

Don’t:

- Try to drive around or through an obvious trouble area—slow down and be prepared to stop.
- Assume that a four-wheel drive vehicle is "skid-proof"—it isn't.
- Don't let ice or snow accumulate on your windshield, windows, mirrors, or lights.
- Mix driving with alcohol.

Don't take unnecessary risks—in extreme conditions, the safest choice is to stay off the road!