



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

February 10, 2014

Contact:

Tahni Segars

GOHS Communication Specialist

tsegars@gohs.ga.gov | 404.657.9105

State urges motorists to prepare vehicles, take extra precautions ahead of winter storm

Motorists cautioned to keep cars in good condition, be prepared for icy conditions

ATLANTA – The state’s highway safety director is appealing to motorists across the state to take time to prepare their cars for the predicted winter weather due to come on Tuesday.

“The Atlanta area is slated to receive another batch of winter weather this week,” said Harris Blackwood. “We are asking motorists to use Monday to take a walk around their car and make sure that tires are in good shape, lights are working and that windshield wipers are in good condition should the winter weather arrive as predicted.”

Forecasters are calling for a winter storm that could potentially bring some snow accumulation. The National Weather Service has issued winter storm warnings for portions of the state that experienced snow and ice just a couple of weeks ago.

It is suggested that drivers use caution in icy and snowy conditions, and make sure their vehicle is well-maintained and well-equipped to handle winter weather conditions.

Often, auto parts stores will assist in replacement of bulbs or wiper blades without additional charge. Information on how to do this can be found in the vehicle’s owner’s manual.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers these tips for winter driving:

- Check the weather, road conditions, and traffic before you leave. Plan to leave early if necessary.
- Keep emergency items stocked (ice scrapers, flares, blankets, flashlights, jumper cables)
- Check all fluids, tire tread, lights, etc.
- Drive slowly. It’s harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. On the road, increase your following distance enough so that you’ll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- Know what kind of brakes your vehicle has and how to use them properly. In general, if you have antilock brakes, apply firm, continuous pressure. If you don’t have antilock brakes, pump the brakes gently.
- If you find yourself in a skid, stay calm and ease your foot off the gas while carefully steering in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go. This steering maneuver may require

additional counter-steering before you can regain full control of the vehicle. Continue to stay off the pedals (gas and brake) until you are able to regain control of your vehicle.

For more winter driving tips, visit www.safercar.gov/WinterDrivingTips.

###

WINTER WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

CHECK TIRES. Be sure your tires have good tread, are properly inflated and don't forget to check your spare.

STOCK UP. Keep blankets, ice scrapers, emergency flares, flashlights and jumper cables handy.

PLAN AHEAD. Check weather, traffic and road conditions before you leave the house.

STAY ALERT. Always be aware, drive sober and buckle up.

SERVICE YOUR CAR. Have your vehicle checked thoroughly before long road trips.

GOHS
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF HIGHWAY SAFETY