



NEWS RELEASE

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State urges motorists to prepare vehicles, take extra precautions ahead of winter storm *Motorists cautioned to keep cars in good condition*

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

“The (Augusta, Macon, Columbus, Savannah, Albany) area does not have as much snow and ice as the northern part of our state,” 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 potentially major winter storm to hit the Deep South this week. The National Weather Service has issued winter storm warnings for sections of the state that typically don’t see much snow and ice.

For drivers in the mid-to southern portions of the state, it is suggested that you use caution in icy and snowy conditions, and make sure your 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.

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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.

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

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

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

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