

Winter is on its way. That can mean fog, rain, ice, snow, slippery roads, and poor visibility. Winter conditions present more challenges for pedestrians, drivers, and vehicle operators.

There are some simple precautions you can take to minimize the risk of accidents and injuries.

This winter season, before you get into a vehicle, take a little extra time to make sure everything in and about the vehicle is in good operating condition.

- Are the windshield and side windows clear?
- Do the windshield wipers work?
- Are the blades in good condition?
- Can you see in all the mirrors?
- Are the headlights clean enough to allow for proper visibility?
- Do the tail and the brake lights work?
- Do the emergency lights work?
- Does the defroster work effectively?
- Do the tires have good tread and adequate pressure?
- Are the brakes working properly?
- Is there more than a quarter tank of gas?
- Do you have emergency or repair equipment in the vehicle, including flashlights, flares, fire extinguishers, and chains where applicable?

Check all these things before winter weather comes.

Remember also to reduce driving speed on wet, muddy, oily, or icy roads. Be especially alert for pedestrians and animals. It will make your driving experience easier and safer.

Preventive maintenance and extra caution can be important factors in accident prevention.