



Winter Storm Preparedness Month



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! While the snow may look pretty, it can make driving tricky and even hazardous. Below are some driver safety tips that you and your family can utilize to remain safe and aware while on the roads this winter season.

Snow Emergency Classifications:

Level 1: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously.

Level 2: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work. Motorists should use extreme caution.

Level 3: All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be driving during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel or a personal emergency exists. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

Be Prepared!

Before heading out on the roads:

1. Log into www.buckeyetraffic.org to find out about weather conditions before traveling. If you must travel, give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination.
2. Check your vehicle's windows, lights, tires, wiper blades, washer fluid, brake lights and signals.
3. Clear all snow and ice from your vehicle's windows, lights and brake lights to make sure that you can see and that your vehicle can be seen by others.

While driving on the roads:



1. "Ice and Snow....Take It Slow". The faster you are driving, the longer it will take to stop. To avoid slipping and sliding, leave plenty of room between you and other cars and be sure to give yourself enough time to stop at stop lights and stop signs. Remember, brake early, slowly, correctly, and do not slam on your breaks!
2. Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to what other vehicles are doing so that you can react quickly and safely if you may need to stop suddenly.
3. Maintain control of your vehicle. Do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers as this can cause your vehicle to slide.

Remember.... "TAKE IT SLOW OR JUST DON'T GO!"

Stranded in your vehicle?

- Turn on hazard lights
- Remain in your vehicle. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building nearby where you are certain that you can take shelter
- Run the engine and heater for 10 minutes each hour. This will ensure you are not wasting battery power
- Maintain body heat. Use coats, blankets, seat covers, floor mats, and huddle with passengers
- Take turns sleeping so that one person is always awake to look for rescue crews
- Eat and drink fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol
- If in a remote area, stomp large letters in an open area spelling "help" or "SOS" and line with rocks or tree limbs

Don't forget to pack your [vehicle's winter preparedness kit!](#)

IS YOUR VEHICLE WINTER READY?



** Winter safety information is courtesy of [Portage Prepares](#)**



Volunteer Opportunity

Be on the lookout for a volunteer deployment drill in late January/early February. An alert will be sent out through Ohio Responds.

Are you interested in providing disaster preparedness education to children or seniors? If so, this may be the volunteer opportunity for you! We are in the process of establishing a preparedness education curriculum to prepare community members of all ages for an emergency. There will be more information to come as details become finalized. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know!

Reminder!



Don't forget to mail back the MRC information sheet that you should have received via mail in late November. It is important that I have your most up-to-date contact information and training records on file. If you did not receive the letter or if you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (330) 296-9919 ext 118 or jennifermccoy@portageco.com.

Be sure to check out our website regularly for news and volunteer/training opportunities. We hope to be able to provide more trainings and events to our volunteers this year! You can access our website at: <http://www.co.portage.oh.us/mrc/>

We would love your feedback! Please let us know if you have any suggestions or comments!

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