

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol urges drivers to use patience and prepare for driving in winter weather

COLUMBUS – The Ohio State Highway Patrol is urging motorists to make safety their first priority while driving in inclement weather.

The Patrol is offering the following tips to assist motorists with winter driving:

- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic ahead.
- Pay attention to the roadways and weather conditions, as they can change rapidly.
- Always pay close attention to bridges and overpasses, as they are often the first to freeze over.
- If you do slide off the side of the road, stay with your vehicle and call the patrol at 1-877-7-PATROL.
- If you get stuck in snow, make sure that your tail pipe is free of all snow and debris, to decrease your chance of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Patrol recommends that in the event of a vehicle breakdown, turn on hazard warning lights, safely position the vehicle as far off the road as possible and open the hood. Place a "help" sign in the rear window, and stay inside the vehicle until help arrives. If a cell phone is available, dial 1-877-7-PATROL for assistance and the call will be directed to the nearest Patrol post.

Troopers suggest all motorists have the following items in their vehicle in case of a breakdown:

- Cell phone
- Road flares or reflectors
- *Help* or *Call Police* signs
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Blanket/Sleeping bag
- Small shovel
- Bottled water and energy foods
- Candles and matches
- Tow strap/chain

Up-to-the-minute road conditions are always available by logging onto the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Web site, www.buckeyetraffic.org, which received more than 117 million hits during last year's winter driving season. ODOT also reminds motorists: Ice and Snow...Take It Slow.

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