

Winter Road Safety -- Staying Safe in Highland Hills

Here are some safety related tips for driving, parking and walking on our roads in the winter.

Driving

The following is a short refresher on basic winter-driving techniques from the state Department of Transportation:

- Drive with headlights on.
- Decrease your speed.
- Leave extra room between you and other vehicles to give yourself time to stop.
- Slow down at intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady areas that might have black ice.
- Avoid abrupt stops or other last-minute actions so you don't lose control.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive.
- Keep a close eye on traffic ahead of you.
- Give yourself extra time and distance to stop. Stopping on wet or icy roads without skidding takes more time.

You should also carry an emergency car kit throughout the winter. A kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Cat litter or sand for tire traction
- Shovel
- Ice scraper
- Warm clothes (heavy coats, gloves, hats)
- Wool blankets
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Food, such as nuts and energy bars
- Drinking water
- AM/FM radio with battery
- Chains

Parking

If you park at the entrance to your driveway it will not be possible for an emergency vehicle to get to your home should the need arise. (Owners with steep driveways may not have a practical alternative; we don't want people parking on the roadsides unless their vehicles can get completely off the road.)

Walking

Reminder to walkers and joggers—it is highly recommended that you curtail your activities until the roads are completely clear. In addition to the risk of slipping and falling, there is the problem that cars may skid or be unable to stop. If dogs still must be walked, extreme caution is advised. If you do walk, carry a light and use traction aids on your footwear – see related article ‘Winter Walking’ under the Personal Safety selection under the ‘Safety & Awareness’ link on the front page of the HHMC webpage (http://www.hhmcsequim.org/Personal_Safety_-_Winter_Walking.pdf).

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