CrewSigned

Winter Driving Safety Toolbox Talk

5-minute read-aloud · Last reviewed November 24, 2026

Winter makes every drive harder. Roads get slick, days get shorter, and windshields fog and freeze. Crashes are already one of the top causes of death for workers, and snow and ice make them more likely. Today we will talk about getting ready, driving smart, and what to do if you get stuck.

Get the vehicle ready before the first storm. Check the tires for tread and pressure. Make sure the battery, brakes, lights, wipers and defroster all work. Top off washer fluid with winter fluid and keep the antifreeze mix right. Keep the gas tank at least half full so you do not run out if you are stuck in traffic or stranded.

Every vehicle should have a winter kit: an ice scraper and brush, a small shovel, sand or kitty litter for traction, jumper cables, a flashlight with extra batteries, a blanket, warm clothes and gloves, water and snacks, a first aid kit, and a phone charger. If yours is missing something, tell me.

Before you drive, clear all the snow and ice off the windows, mirrors, lights and roof, not just a peephole. Snow from the roof can slide down and blind you, or fly off and hit the car behind.

On the road, slow down. Speed limits are for dry roads. Leave a lot more space between you and the vehicle ahead, because it can take several times longer to stop on ice. Accelerate, brake and steer gently. Watch for black ice on bridges, overpasses, shaded spots and in the early morning. Do not use cruise control on slick roads. If you start to skid, ease off the gas and steer where you want to go.

Sometimes the right call is not to go. If the weather is bad, call me. We can wait or change the plan.

If you get stranded, stay with the vehicle. It gives you shelter and makes you easier to find. Do not walk off looking for help unless you can see it close by. Run the engine about ten minutes each hour for heat, and make sure the tailpipe is clear of snow so exhaust does not build up inside. Crack a window a little. Turn on the dome light at night so rescuers can see you. Move your arms and legs to keep warm, and call for help.

Discussion questions

1. What is in your vehicle's winter emergency kit right now?
2. How much following distance do you leave on wet or icy roads, and how do you judge it?
3. If you were stranded on a back road in a snowstorm, what would you do first?

OSHA standard

OSHA Winter Weather guidance, hazards and precautions
https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather/hazards

SOURCES
OSHA Winter Weather: https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather
NIOSH, Motor Vehicle Safety at Work: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/motor-vehicle/about/index.html

This talk does not replace training that an OSHA standard requires. Scripts are based on OSHA and NIOSH publications and rewritten in plain language.

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOPIC

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COMPANY

JOB / SITE

DATE

TIME

PRESENTER

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