



Studies show that auto accidents increase by 12 percent during January and February. Don't travel on roads that are not adequately cleared. Take it slow and allow plenty of time to get to your destination when driving in winter weather conditions.

If you do have to venture out, there are several precautions you should take while driving:



Avoid changing lanes quickly



Allow more time and distance to adequately brake and stop



Check to ensure your car is in good running condition with properly functioning brakes, battery, appropriate tire pressure and adequate fluid level



Try not to go below a half tank of gas in the event of a slow, long commute during stormy weather



If you do get stuck and you run your engine, make sure the tailpipe is not blocked with snow—carbon monoxide can leak into the car

Keep an emergency kit in your car in case you are stranded. It should include:



Shovel, windshield scraper, booster cables, sand or kitty litter, tow rope



Warm blankets, dry hat, gloves & outerwear, battery-powered radio, flashlight



Drinking water, non-perishable food, first aid kit