



UPPER SADDLE RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Upper Saddle River Police Department Winter Driving Tips:

By now all of us have realized that the 2014-2015 winter season has arrived earlier than expected this year. With our first winter storm arriving in November I would hope this is not an indication of another harsh winter to come. No matter what Mother Nature may have in store for us this season driving during the winter months can be hazardous. Slick roadways, covered with ice and snow, and poor visibility can create potentially dangerous driving conditions. Even with all the snow removal efforts, it is still up to all of us to use common sense when driving on an ice/snow-covered roadway. Below you will find some basic winter driving tips that should help keep you and your family safe while operating your vehicle during inclement weather.

- Watch the weather. Try to plan trips in relatively good weather. Be alert and stay up to date on changing weather and traffic reports in order to anticipate and avoid stormy roadways. If the weather is expected to be bad travel only if necessary.
- Get your vehicle serviced. Make sure the tires, windshield wipers, battery, electrical system, cooling system, and brakes are in good condition.
- Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, hood, and roof areas. Remember, it's the law. Drivers can be issued a ticket for failing to clear ice and snow from their vehicle. Snow and ice on windows can obstruct a driver's view. Snow and ice which falls from vehicles can cause accidents and damage to other vehicles and can be injurious to other drivers.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping, and be mindful of the speed limit, focusing your attention as far ahead as possible. Remember that just because your vehicle has ABS brakes does not mean it will stop sooner on a snow or ice covered roadway.
- Slow down your vehicle by decelerating earlier, instead of just using your brakes. Please note that tapping brakes works for controlling a skid in traditional braking systems but pumping ABS brakes can be dangerous
- Drive with care, even if you think a roadway has been cleared.
- Avoid unnecessary lane changes. Changing lanes on a slick roadway can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Make up a winter driving kit. Items in the kit should include, but are not limited to, an ice scraper, blankets, a First Aid kit, a small shovel, jumper cables, warm clothes, a flashlight, and road flares.
- Never warm up your vehicle inside an enclosed area, such as a garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur.
- Stay alert for children that may be sleigh riding. A driver will have difficulty stopping and reacting to sudden events, if roadway conditions are poor.
- Most importantly, drive defensively, and always wear your seatbelt.

On behalf of myself and all my staff, we wish you and your families a very happy and safe Holiday Season. Please feel free to contact Traffic Officer Kenneth Osborne if you should need any further assistance. Additional winter driving tips can be found on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/WinterDrivingTips2012.pdf>

Chief Rotella