



Winter Driving Hints

For children, winter driving conjures up images of trips to the toboggan run, post-holiday shopping, and visits with friends and relatives. For adults, winter driving stirs up different visions – snow, sleet, ice, skidding and digging the car out.

However, through careful planning and some good old-fashioned common sense, anyone can ease the uncertainty of potentially dangerous travel conditions and reduce transportation accidents and fatalities so both children and adults can safely enjoy the winter season. Inclement weather can turn a normal trip into a driver's worst nightmare.

- ♦ Winter drivers will benefit from stocking up with a snow shovel, ice scraper, sand, and kitty litter, and keeping them on the floor of the back seat or in the trunk.
- ♦ Stow warning devices such as flares and folding reflective triangles, jumper cables (include goggles to use when jump starting your battery), gloves, a first aid kit, one or two water bottles, and windshield wiper fluid in your vehicle. A working flashlight, phone charger, blanket, old clothing to protect what you are wearing during repairs, duct tape for temporary patch-up jobs, maps, matches and nonperishable food items like high-energy trail mix or granola bars round out a basic supply list.
- ♦ Anticipating problems before they arise should aid drivers in maintaining control of their vehicle. This is important because winter driving requires an adjustment for every driver and makes accelerating, braking, and turning more challenging due to the weather conditions. Thus, poor road conditions require better judgment, patience, and often adjusting to slow speeds. You do not need to drive at the limit.
- ♦ If you do get stuck in drifting snow, keep the snow and ice from blocking your exhaust pipe. Lower your window slightly to avoid asphyxiating carbon monoxide fumes from entering your vehicle. Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes per hour. Adjust this accordingly depending on the level in your gas tank. Don't leave the car unless you know your exact location and the time and distance required to get help.
- ♦ Finally, check weather and traffic reports prior to and during your trip. Be patient, flexible and adaptable. Salespeople or those taking long trips should leave a travel itinerary with colleagues, family or friends with anticipated arrival and check-in times. By respecting Mother Nature, maybe you'll enjoy the snow and ice as much as you did when you were a child thinking about toboggan runs, a trip to the store, or a visit to friends or relatives.



Just a reminder that members have access to MOPERM U from any computer. If your personnel policy allows working from home when the hazardous travel policy is implemented or during inclement weather, completing some of the courses may benefit the employees and the entity.

If you would like us to visit and walk you through, please contact Jim Odom or Anna Kabler.

MOPERM Risk Management

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If you would like to schedule a visit, please contact Jim or Anna

Other News to Note:

Office Hazards

With the cold weather upon us, it is easy to plug in a space heater by your feet or just plug in a heating pad for your lap.

With this in mind, MOPERM would like to share the more common office hazards found during previous public entity property inspections. Avoiding these potential problems in the workplace helps ensure sure that you, your coworkers, and public entity stay safe.

Damaged Power Cords: Damaged and ungrounded cords pose a threat of electric shock to employees, can present a fire hazard, and are a violation of safety codes. To minimize risks, inspect cords regularly for wear, and never use a power cord with damaged external sheathing or exposed wires. Never use plugs when the third prong, used to ground the device, has been damaged or removed.

Misused Extension Cords: Improper use of unapproved extension cords can present a serious fire hazard in the workplace. The most common cause of fires from extension cords is improper use and/or overloading. Extension cords in the workplace should always be properly approved by a certifying laboratory (such as UL), used only temporarily, and used to connect only one device at a time.

Unsafe Space Heaters: Portable space heaters can pose a major fire hazard if used improperly. Space heaters in the workplace should always be approved for commercial use by a recognized safety testing laboratory, never placed near combustible materials, and have a tip-over switch to ensure they will turn off automatically if knocked over. Additional, Space heaters and power strips should never be used with extension cords

Announcements

As you may recall, we had asked for feedback from those who read our Summer Newsletter. We had a random drawing and would like to congratulate *Julie Beth Vetter*, Finance Officer, City of St John as the Newsletter Response winner.

MOPERM had a booth at MAC's 47th Annual Conference & Expo. Thanks to those who stopped by and visited with Jim and Anna.

- MAC Conference Gift Card winners:
- Subway-*Don Baragary*, Presiding Commissioner, Cooper County
- Applebee's-*Barbara Gholson*, Collector Elect, Cape Girardeau County
- Olive Garden-*Kevin C Bond*, Sheriff, Pettis County
- Multi pack Darden Restaurants-*Rita Milam*, Scott County Clerk
- Dominos-*Greg "Peck" Robinson*, Moniteau County 2nd District Commissioner



Please pass this Newsletter and other information received from MOPERM along to all of the employees/members