

Tips for winter driving

With winter practically here, the South Lake Tahoe Police Department is reminding people who to drive in snowy, icy conditions.

Here are some tips:

- Make sure your tires are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition.
- Check your brakes, lights and windshield wipers to make sure they are functioning properly.
- Warm up your vehicle and make sure your windshield is clear of ice and snow before driving.
- Be alert. Constantly scan the road for hazards and give yourself enough room to react safely.
- Remember, stopping distances can double in rain and triple in snow.
- Minimize distractions, such as turning off or silencing your cell phone.
- Do not use cruise control during wet or snowy road conditions. Cruise control can cause skidding and loss of tire traction in winter conditions.
- Buckle your seat belt. Wearing a seat belt is the best defense to prevent injury and death in a crash. This includes buckling children into properly installed child safety or booster seats.
- Carry an emergency kit for safety, comfort and possible repairs.
- Ensure properly fitted tire chains in case of severe winter weather.
- Finally, don't drive when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or drugs whether they be illicit or prescription. If you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, always designate a sober driver.