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## News Release

November 16, 2018

### Winterize Your Ride: CAA's Safety Tips

Winter has arrived in Saskatchewan. The weather can be frightful but with some safety tips from CAA, your winter can be a little more delightful.

#### Winter Safety Check List: Vehicles

- \* **Battery:** The battery is your vehicle's life line. Extreme weather weakens the battery so check it often and have it charged if necessary.
- \* **Block heater and cord:** Make sure the cord is not frayed and is in good working condition. Always plug in when the temperature falls below -15°C.
- \* **Check your vehicle fluids:** This includes antifreeze, brake fluid, and the window washer fluid which are all vital to safe winter travel.
- \* **Defrost your windows before you drive:** Take the time to remove ice and snow from your vehicle.
- \* **Brakes:** Have your brakes inspected thoroughly and service them if necessary. This will help with better braking power especially on icy, snow covered roads.
- \* **Roadside Safety Kit:** Pack extra winter gear including mitts, toques, and footwear. Take along a mobile phone with charger (for emergency use only), non-perishable food, water, a shovel, window ice scraper, snow brush, and booster cables.
- \* **Fuel:** Keep a full tank or at minimum a half tank of fuel. This will help reduce moisture in the gas tank plus it adds weight to your vehicle.
- \* **Check your tire pressure:** The right pressure is important for traction and fuel efficiency. Check the air pressure regularly. Improper inflation can not only be dangerous but can also cause increased tire wear resulting in added costs for replacement tires. CAA also recommends a good set of winter tires. The different rubber compound in winter tires allows for better traction and control.

#### Winter Safety Check List: Drivers

- \* **Check weather and road conditions before you travel:** Allow extra time to reach your destination safely. Be prepared to reduce your speed and drive with caution.
- \* **Slow to 60 km/h on Saskatchewan highways:** For working tow truck operators, emergency personnel and in highway work zones.
- \* **Watch for snowplows:** Trucks now have amber flashing lights for increased visibility. [Remember to slow down, stay back, and stay safe.](#)
- \* **Signal Lights:** Every vehicle has them. Use them in advance to communicate your driving intentions to others on the road.



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\* **See and be Seen:** Vehicles driven in the dark without lights are known as '[phantom vehicles.](#)' Some drivers think a lit-up dashboard means the vehicle lights are on, which may not be true. Turn your vehicle headlights and tail lights on in harsh weather and in low visibility.

\* **Check the [Highway Hotline:](#)** For updates on winter road conditions.

\* **When driving on slippery roads:** Tires can sometimes lose their grip. Hold the steering wheel with both hands. If you use the 9 and 3 o'clock position, you can easily straighten the tires out without oversteering. It's the least fatiguing and has the most control.

\* **Avoid using cruise control on a slippery road.** Your tires can lose their traction trying to keep to a set speed.

\* **Always brake well before any turns, so the vehicle slows down in a straight line.** Leave plenty of extra room for braking. If you're driving around a curve and the car slides out from the front wheels or all of them, keep a light grip on the wheel and steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go. Don't turn the wheel too much – when the wheels catch their grip again, you don't want to overcorrect the turn and worsen the situation.

\* **Don't touch the brakes if your car is skidding out.**

\* **During a front-wheel skid, try to straighten the steering wheel.** Let the car slow on its own. Look ahead down the road at where you want to go and that's where you'll steer to. When the tires have found their grip again, resume an appropriate speed – and probably a little slower this time.

For vehicle winter inspection, visit the [CAA Car Centre at Regina Battery Depot](#) or any facility that is part of [CAA's Approved Auto Repair Services \(AARS\)](#) network across the province. Roadside safety kits are available at all CAA Stores or [online](#).

For [roadside assistance](#), available 24/7, CAA Members can call 1-800-222-4357 or request the service online and also through [CAA's mobile app](#).

For more information, contact:

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*CAA Saskatchewan serves approximately 183,000 Members, offering benefits and services through its non-profit motor club; and through its travel and insurance agencies, and auto maintenance and repair facility at Regina Battery Depot. CAA advocates for motorists and travellers, supporting traffic safety programs and addressing related public policy issues.*

