

During the winter months, facilities continuously monitors weather forecasts of hazardous weather conditions; however, freezing rain and other dangerous conditions are usually difficult to predict and experience has shown that a perfectly safe situation can turn treacherous in a matter of a few minutes. We are entirely committed to making the college's walkways, stairs and parking lots as safe as possible during and after winter storms. However with limited staff in the early mornings it is challenging to have deicer applied to college grounds areas prior to staff and students arriving to campus. As a matter of personal safety we ask that employees, students and visitors you extreme precaution when exiting their vehicle and walking on campus.

### **Walking safely in snow and icy conditions:**

- Allow ample time to walk from your car to class. In slippery conditions, it is imperative that you take care to slow down and avoid walking in areas that have yet to be cleared or treated.
- Avoid areas that have been blocked off/barricaded by facilities personnel. The barricades are placed to prohibit access to walkways, stairs, ramps, etc. that have not yet been treated, or are historically very difficult to keep free of snow and ice due to their locations. The barricaded areas are intended to protect our campus community members; please do NOT move or walk over/around a barricade.
- Hold onto hand rails while going up and down outdoor stairways. Even though it is a priority for our facilities personnel to diligently clear and treat all stairways, frigid temperatures can limit the effectiveness of salt, calcium, etc. Hence, areas that have been recently treated can sometimes still have icy spots.
- Wearing dark colors can make it difficult for motorists to see you. Wear a brightly-colored scarf or hat or reflective gear, especially if you have to walk in the street.
- Walking on snow or ice is especially treacherous and wearing proper footwear is essential. A pair of well insulated boots with good rubber treads is a must for walking during or after a winter storm. Keeping a pair of rubber over-shoes with good treads which fit over your street shoes is a good idea during the winter months. Avoid wearing shoes with plastic or leather soles in slippery conditions.
- When walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction. Bending your knees a little and taking slower steps can greatly reduce your chances of falling.
- Snow and ice may keep motorists from stopping at traffic signals or slowing down for pedestrians. Before you step off of the curb into the street, make sure that any approaching vehicles have come to a complete stop.

### **Winter Driving Tips:**

- Drive slowly (at or below the posted speed limit) and adjust your speed for the changing road conditions.
- Turn on your headlights, using low beams when traveling in snow.
- Increase your following distance. In winter weather, travel at least eight to 10 seconds behind the car in front of you.
- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution in doing so. Remember, a snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see him, but they don't always see you.
- If you skid, don't brake or accelerate. Remove your foot from the gas, and gently steer your car in the direction of the skid (the direction the rear of your vehicle is sliding.) When your car starts heading in the desired direction, carefully straighten the wheel.

- Slow down before exiting the highway. Exit ramps often have icy patches, sharp curves and stalled or stopped vehicles.
- Have a personal safety kit easily accessible in your vehicle that includes: an ice scraper/brush; shovel; jumper cables or battery starter; blanket; sand, salt or kitty litter for traction; lock deicer; flashlight and new batteries; extra windshield wiper fluid; safety flares/warning device; cell phone with spare battery; water and non-perishable food (i.e., granola or protein bars); and paper towels or a cloth.
- If your vehicle does become disabled, pull off the road as far as possible and turn on your emergency flashers. Remain with your vehicle until help arrives. If you can't get your vehicle off the road and are uncertain about your safety, do not stay in your vehicle or stand behind it. Proceed carefully to a safe location away from traffic.