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TITLE: WINTER DRIVING - TRAVELING SAFELY ON AND OFF SITE	



OPEX – JIT BRIEFING

Summary and Consequences:

Winter driving can be hectic when Mother Nature is not cooperating. Poor visibility and road conditions can make traveling a challenge and a significant safety risk. If traveling is required, being prepared and following some basic guidelines will go along way to ensure you arrive safely. Motor Vehicle Accidents are the number one cause of death in winter storms.

Reference – Bruce Power Winter Safety Powerpoint presentation, Ministry Of Transport Website

Lessons Learned:

- **Slow down.** The number one cause of winter driving accidents is driving too fast
- **Be prepared.** Listen to the local weather and road condition reports for the area where you are traveling. If at work call the Winter Storm Hotline at 2828 or check the Ministry of Transportation web site (<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca>)
- **Winterize your car.** Check antifreeze, defroster, emergency signals, heater, lights, oil, tires, windshield washer fluid, and wiper blades
- **Keep emergency supplies in you car.** Blanket, jumper cables, first aid kit, flashlight, ice scraper, matches and a candle, sand/gravel, small shovel and a cellular phone
- Prior to driving, **Clear the snow off the entire car before you begin to drive.** Let your car warm up for a few minutes, Make sure all lights work and are clear of ice and/or snow, Always drive with your headlights on (Safety Rule 409), Clean ice and snow off your windshield wiper blades, check horn, adjust mirrors, test brakes
- **Maintain SPACE. Speed, Patience, Awareness, Concentration, Exit**
- Winter driving **Reminders**; Following distance (6 or more seconds), Stopping Distance (Snow - 2x normal stopping distance, Ice - 3x normal stopping distance)
- **Braking**; Gently tap and release brake pedal in a pumping motion. Vehicles with ABS brakes should apply steady, gentle pressure to the pedal - do not pump brakes
- **Skids**; Steer in the direction of skid. Rear wheel drive - remove foot from accelerator. Front wheel drive - continue to apply steady pressure on the accelerator. As the vehicle comes out of the skid, straighten wheels or steer slightly in the opposite direction
- **If / When Stuck**; Watch out for other cars! Shovel the snow from the front & back of all wheels. Try to ease out without spinning the wheels. If all else fails - call for help!
- **REMEMBER**; Cars are expendable, LIVES are not!

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