

How to be safe when driving in the ice and snow

BEFORE SETTING OFF

1. Drive only if your journey is really necessary
2. Allow sufficient time - avoid dusk or night driving
3. A full tank of fuel is essential - the biggest source of heat if stranded will be the car engine.
4. Make sure all lights are working, fluid levels correct, use a stronger screen wash to prevent the windscreen freezing, make sure all windows are clean- use de-icer and a suitable scraper.
5. If forced to abandon the vehicle leave it in safest place possible.
6. Never leave the vehicle unattended with its engine running. That will nullify its insurance cover if stolen.
7. Dress for the conditions. Take a thermos of hot drink or soup and high energy food such as sweets, chocolate, glucose based snacks.
8. Have a blanket or sleeping bag and a high visibility coat or vest.
9. Have entertainment especially if conveying young children 10. Take sunglasses to reduce low winter sun glare, mobile phone charger, breakdown service telephone number and inform someone that you are on your journey particularly if driving in a remote area.

ON THE ROAD

1. At the wheel apply gentle acceleration, steering and braking – sympathetic gentle driving is the key to traveling safely.
2. Pull away in second or third gear. In an automatic select second gear. Some automatics have a winter mode.
3. Watch your speed and remember that cyclists and pedestrians will be less visible than other vehicles.
4. Stopping distances increase up to 10 times in ice and snow.
5. Never rev the engine as that only ‘polishes’ snow and ice, If the vehicles start to skid, gentle lift-off the throttle and steer into the skid. Try not to brake. Use first gear as a brake.
6. Black ice is often in areas shadowed from the sun particularly on roads heading north to south so beware.
7. While the vehicle is warm inside it can be freezing outside so monitor the vehicle’s external temperature meter.
8. Non-gritted roads - beware of driving in wheel-tracks because compressed snow is more likely to cause a skid than undisturbed snow.
9. Dipped headlights are essential to see and be seen. Do not use fog lights unless visibility is less than 100 meters- they dazzle oncoming vehicles and rear fog lights can obscure brake lights.
10. Avoid flashing headlights to acknowledge other drivers. It causes dazzle.



The Forum partners are working together to reduce road traffic casualties, making our roads safer for all road users in Pembrokeshire.

**PEMBROKESHIRE
ROAD SAFETY FORUM**

Useful website links

www.roadsafetypembrokeshire.co.uk

www.dft.gov.uk/think

For further information please contact John Gobbi County Road Safety Education Officer – john.gobbi@pembrokeshire.gov.uk