

# Skagit County Fire District 13

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## Safety Bulletin

November 2018



## WINTER SAFETY

### Ice and Snow, Take it Slow

**Remember: Slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking.**

#### DRIVING

- Drive with your headlights on and keep them clean. Keep your windows & mirrors free of ice, fog and grime.
- Drive for conditions. Do not get over-confident with four-wheel drive. It will not help you stop any faster.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These areas have the potential of developing black ice and can make driving hazardous.
- Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances. Drivers should allow additional room between their vehicle and other vehicles.
- Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you do not have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.
- Trucks take longer to stop. Do not cut in front of them.

#### WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE

- **Check** the ignition, fuel, exhaust, and cooling systems.
- **Check** fluid levels: oil, antifreeze, windshield washer, etc.
- **Check** belts, brakes, tire pressure and tread (purchase snow tires if needed).
- **Replace** non-working lights, keep them clean.
- **Replace** worn wiper blades.

## **OUTDOOR SAFETY!**

**Hypothermia** is particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening.

*Warning signs of hypothermia.*

For adults:

- shivering, exhaustion
- confusion, fumbling hands
- memory loss, slurred speech
- drowsiness

For infants:

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

**Frostbite** can also be a problem when the wind chill factor is low. Warning signs:

- Numbness
- Stiffness or rigidity
- Swelling
- Change in skin appearance to a reddish, bluish or whitish color
- Be watchful of snow loads on flat or low-pitch roofs. Barns, garages and sheds are particularly vulnerable.
- Snow-melt can cause dangerous flooding on streets. Help keep street drains open and Drive carefully!

## **INDOOR SAFETY!**

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced when-ever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous.

*To avoid CO poisoning:*

- Never leave a car running in a garage even with the garage door open.
- Never run a generator in the home, garage, or crawlspace. Opening windows or using fans will NOT prevent CO build-up in the home.
- When running generators outdoors, keep it away from open doors or windows.
- Never burn charcoal in homes, tents, vehicles, or garages.
- Never install or service combustion appliances without proper knowledge, skills, and tools.
- Never use a gas range, oven, or dryer for heating.
- Never operate an un-vented gas-burning appliance in a closed room or in a room in which you are sleeping.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors can save lives. Available at local hardware stores.