



IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY SHOULD BECOME STRANDED

Do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation. To attract attention, light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Hang a brightly colored cloth (from your essential supplies) from your antenna. If you are sure the car's exhaust pipe is not blocked with snow and ice, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour or so depending upon the amount of gas available in the tank. To protect yourself and Family from frostbite and hypothermia use the woolen items and blankets to keep warm (also found in the essential supplies). Keep at least one window open slightly. Heavy snow and ice can seal a car shut. Eat a hard candy (from your essential supplies) to keep your mouth moist.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WINTERIZE YOUR CAR



ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



Driving in the winter means snow, sleet and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you and your Family make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared for the extremes of winter.



YOUR CAR'S PREPAREDNESS DEPENDS ON YOU!

To prepare your car for the harshness of winter. Start with a checkup that at a minimum includes:

- Checking the ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and belts. Replacing worn hoses and belts now can save you a headache later.
- Changing the spark plugs according to the owner's/service manual. This will ensure better mileage and easier starts in the cold.
- Checking the air, fuel, emission filters, and the PCV valve. These items will make your car run smoother and save mileage.
- Inspecting the distributor. Look for cracks or chips. This can cause your car to run poorly.
- Checking the battery. Check fluid level if applicable; check the date installed and inspect the cables and connections for corrosion.
- Checking the tires for proper inflation, sidewall wear and tread depth. Worn or improperly inflated tires are a hazard in snow and ice.
- Checking antifreeze levels. The optimum coolant combination is a 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water. Refer to your vehicle's manual.



NECESSARY EQUIPMENT YOU SHOULD CARRY IN YOUR CAR

An emergency situation on the road can happen at any time and you must be prepared to handle it. In addition to making sure you have the tune-up, a full tank of gas, and a fresh anti-freeze mixture, you should carry the following items in your trunk for emergencies:

- Properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and proper jack. Read how to change the tire and practice it before you actually have to do it.
- Shovel. Recommend a small foldable camping shovel or E-Tool.
- Jumper cables. Don't purchase cheap ones, you will be disappointed. Invest in a good set.
- Tow and tire chains. Again, dry fit the chains for practice before you really need to put them on in the snow.
- Bag of salt or cat litter. These can provide you traction on the ice.
- Tool kit. Basic tools like screwdrivers, an adjustable wrench, pliers, hammer, spare fuses and electrical tape. Recommend a reflective vest to use when outside the vehicle.



ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

Be prepared with a "survival kit" that should always remain in the car. Replenish contents after use. Essential supplies include:

- Working flashlight and extra batteries
- Reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Exterior windshield cleaner
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Wooden, strike on anything, stick matches in a waterproof container
- Scissors and string/cord
- Non-perishable, high-energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy.

* In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm such as heavy woolen mittens, socks, a cap and blankets (preferably wool).

