

Risk Management-Winter 2015

What's it all about?

SAFE WINTER DRIVING



"Breathing Life Into Safety"

Training Calendar

Distracted Driver:
2/19/15, 1515 Arch St.,
Rm. 18-022, 10am-12pm

Distracted Driver:
3/12/15, 1515 Arch St.,
Rm. 18-022, 10am-12pm

Defensive Driver:
4/15/15, 1401 JFK Blvd.,
Rm. 16Z, 8am-12pm

**For more training
announcements:**

www.phila.gov/risk

Tips to Remember for Winter Driving

Did you ever think about the influence of the cold weather on your car? The cold especially taxes the electrical system (chiefly the battery and alternator) of conventional cars. Think about how the battery is affected on a conventional car, and imagine if you are driving a hybrid, or an all electric vehicle (which has lots of batteries); consider how those non conventional batteries will be affected by the cold.

It's important to clear the snow and ice off your car, not only so that you can see the road clearly, but also to eliminate hazards to other drivers. Snow or ice dislodging from your vehicle can be dangerous to other drivers or nearby pedestrians. As of 2006, PA Vehicle Code - Title 75 § 3720 governs the laws on ice and snow removal from

vehicles, if snow or ice falls from your vehicle and causes damage or an injury, you can be fined for a violation.

Before you shift into gear, become familiar with the vehicle. Many of us here in the City drive fleet vehicles or even rented vehicles (ie. Zipcars). Most vehicles have their controls laid out logically and somewhat in the same place, however between different models and years, there may be some variation. The last thing you want to be doing is searching for the wipers in the midst of a rain or snow shower. Be mindful that with snow and slush, it will spray onto the windshield. Be sure that your windshield washer fluid is topped off, and keep an extra supply in the trunk just in case.

Braking Principles

Do you remember the old formula from High School, $Rate \times Time = Distance$? This principle applies to driving in any weather. The faster you are travelling, the longer it takes for your vehicle to stop. This also applies to that other formula you may remember, from Physics: $Force = Mass \times Acceleration$ ($F=ma$). The force, in this case braking, is increased when both the mass and the acceleration (speed of vehicle) increases. Sounds technical, (vehicle size),

but its really not. Our body's intuition and experience when driving, especially in snow and ice, tells us it takes a little longer to slow down. This applies particularly if we are driving a bigger, heavier vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Driving may feel like second nature to some of us, but remember, that other drivers on the road may not have as much experience as you do.

-Safe travels

For more driving tips see: <http://www.nsc.org/Pages/nsc-on-the-road.aspx>