



Winter Driving Tips

Many Canadians contend with ice, snow and rain for several months throughout the year. Overall, Canadians tend to be

good drivers in winter conditions, yet it is always beneficial to maintain and improve your skills behind the wheel in winter!

Get your vehicle winter-ready with a maintenance check-up. Don't wait until winter has arrived before having your battery, belts, hoses, radiator, oil, lights, brakes, exhaust system, heater/defroster, wipers, and ignition system checked. Making sure your vehicle is mechanically ready for winter weather is the first step to safe winter driving.

Be Prepared

Remember to do your research prior to leaving for your intended destination, check weather reports and travel conditions before heading out. Don't take chances with driving if the weather is bad and you do not have to. If you must tackle the conditions, give yourself plenty of extra time or wait until the conditions improve. If you are planning on travelling far distances plan your route ahead of time and ensure someone knows your destination, as well as the approximate time of arrival.

Comfortable clothing can be beneficial for long commutes. Wear clothing that does not restrict your movement while at the wheel. However, ensure you have a set of warm clothes with you in case you have to get out of your car in the cold weather. In extreme weather conditions, the presence of certain items can be useful and will provide you and your passengers with added comfort and safety should you become

stranded. Equip your vehicle with the following items:

- Jumper cables
- A shovel
- Traction pads or chains
- An ice scraper and a towing cable
- Flares
- A blanket
- A first aid kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Non-perishable foods (chocolate or granola bars, juice, bottled water etc.)
- Flashlight and batteries
- A cellular phone (if you have one)

On the Road



There are several things to remember while driving in bad weather conditions, a few key points to remember are; drive slow, leave room in front of you while driving, and leave extra space when stopped behind a car.

Foremost everything takes a little longer when it is slippery so take it slow. Don't try anything sudden, use limited pedal pressure when starting and begin breaking well in advance of where you want to stop. Next, leave room in front of you. In normal driving conditions experts recommend using the two second rule, which means there should be at least two seconds between your car and the car in front of you. However, the two second rule is for dry conditions and should be doubled in slippery weather. Finally, leave extra space when stopped behind a car at a stoplight or stop sign. You should leave enough space to see the rear wheels of the car ahead. This will provide you enough room to pull out and move around the car if it stalls, it also enables you to pull ahead if you see a car approaching too fast from behind.



Smoke Alarm Facts

It is a well known fact that smoke alarms save lives, but what if a fire breaks out in your home while you and your family are sleeping and the smoke alarm does not go off. The majority of fatal fires happen at night while people are asleep, a working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound an alarm providing you and your family with precious time to escape. **One smoke alarm is not enough**, fire safety officials recommend you have a smoke alarm on every level of the house. Furthermore, if family members sleep with bedroom doors closed there should be a smoke alarm in each room.

It is important to **test your smoke alarms regularly**, what is the purpose of an alarm that doesn't work? Smoke alarms should be tested at least one to two times a month by pressing the test button until the device beeps, rings or sounds. **Batteries should be changed once a year**, or if your alarm starts beeping on and off without cause. This may signify batteries are low and need to be replaced immediately.

Another tip to remember is dust can clog up your smoke alarm and impede proper performance. **Every six months gently vacuum the inside** using a soft-brush attachment to remove dust from the sensors. If your alarm doesn't open, vacuum through the case.

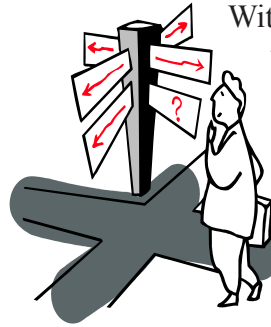
Remember smoke alarms do not last forever, they wear out over time. So **if you think your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it** with a new one.

Finally, it is important that every one in your household knows what the fire alarm sounds like and what to do if a fire occurs. It is helpful to carry out your monthly fire alarm tests in front of your family members and **frequently practice your home fire escape plan**. Be familiar with at least two ways out of each room in your house, and have an agreed meeting place outside.



When was the last time you checked your smoke alarm?

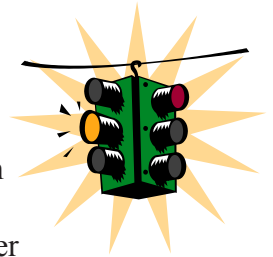
Pedestrian Safety



With the winter weather upon us, the days are getting shorter and nights are getting longer. Pedestrian safety is for all ages and all seasons, however it is particularly important when the weather is dark and rainy. Unfortunately in traffic incidents involving pedestrians and motorists, it is the pedestrian who endures the worst and the worst often ends in tragic consequences. The following are some simple rules for both drivers and pedestrians to follow in order to ensure that pedestrians stay safe in the winter weather.

Tips for Pedestrians

As a pedestrian the responsibility is on you to take proper precautions while crossing the street. Here are some tips that can help you stay safe while crossing the road in the dark winter weather and year round.



- Cross the street at marked pedestrian crossways.
- Always use the pedestrian lights if the intersection has them available to you. Do not cross in the middle of a block or between parked cars.
- Make eye contact with drivers, so you know they see you and so they know you see them.
- Wear bright coloured clothing or reflective strips when walking in dusk or darkness.
- Before stepping onto the street, look left, right and left again.

Tips for Drivers

As a driver you have the ability to practice safe driving techniques and contribute to the safety of pedestrians. Keep in mind the following rules:

- Approach intersections with caution at all times.
- Always yield to pedestrians (even if crossing at an unmarked intersection).



- Expect the unexpected; never assume other drivers or pedestrians see you.
- Be cautious of vehicles stopped in the lane beside you, they might be yielding to a pedestrian crossing the street.
- Always look behind you and around the exterior of your vehicle when backing up.
- Be extra cautious when turning right on red lights and stop signs. Look for indecisive or unaware pedestrians or cyclists.



**Remember pedestrians -
YOU are in the driver's
seat of your own safety!**

“Dumpster Diving” - New Olympic Sport?

Although “Dumpster Diving” is unlikely to be recognized as an Olympic sport, the participant’s efforts often result in pure gold. It is important to realize that when you place your garbage and recyclables at your curb side, it is open season for unscrupulous individuals who may want to search through the material to obtain documents and information which can be used to steal your identity. Discarded credit card receipts, bank statements, correspondence containing personal information, in fact anything which pertains to you as an individual is useful to a criminal. Identity theft is a real nightmare, extremely time consuming and difficult to put right. Methodical use of a shredder will frustrate any attempt to steal your identify. Shredders are not expensive and are easy to operate. Make it a practice to shred any document bearing financial or personal information (especially those unsolicited pre-printed credit card applications) before placing them in your recycle box.

New Block Watch Assistant Coordinator

We welcome Kristin Lazazzera, our new assistant block watch coordinator. Kristin is excited to be on board and looks forward to working with all of you!

To reach her directly please call (604) 207-4740, or email Kristin.Lazazzera@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Identify Theft Protection Tips

Identity theft has become an increasing concern for many Canadians over the past several years, particularly as a result of recent advances in technology. Identify theft involves stealing or hijacking the identity of another person with the intention of gaining access to finances, making purchases or committing other crimes. In order to complete the impersonation vital information such as name, address, date of birth, social insurance number, and mother’s maiden name need to be acquired.

There are several easy precautions you can take to help protect your information, and reduce your risk of identity theft:

- Be careful about sharing your personal information with anyone, especially over the internet or phone.
- Only provide personal information on the phone or through mail if you have initiated the contact or know exactly who you are dealing with.
- Protect your mail. Remove mail from your mailbox as promptly as possible, and deposit outgoing mail in post office mailboxes.
- Be aware of billing cycles- if a bill fails to arrive contact the company immediately to make sure bills have not been fraudulently redirected.
- Invest in a shredder. Be careful of what you throw out, as your garbage and recycling bins may be vulnerable. Shred any document that contains your personal information.



Home Security Checks



Home security checks are available upon request and are free of charge. Your home evaluation will include suggestions regarding: lighting, landscaping, doors, locks, windows and much more!

Although the Home Security Check team cannot guarantee that your home won't be

broken into, they can show you how to make some simple changes which will reduce your chance of being a victim.

If you would like our Auxiliary Constables to conduct a Home Security Check of your home, or for more information please contact the Richmond Block Watch Office at:

Telephone: 604-207-4790

Fax: 604-207-4792

Richmond Block Watch
c/o Richmond RCMP
6900 Minoru Boulevard
Richmond, BC V6Y 1Y3

You will be asked for your name, birth date, home address, home telephone number and your driver's license number for the purposes of an RCMP security background check before scheduling the appointment.

Home Security starts with you. Make the call today!



To listen to a recorded message listing the weekly residential break and enters, please call 604 207-4715.

"If it's on the Wall...Call"

Graffiti is a challenge that all cities deal with in varying degrees. It is a crime that left ignored can cause a great deal of damage to a neighborhood and its sense of community. The presence of graffiti can send the message, we residents do not care about the appearance of where we live, consequently leaving a community feeling unsafe. The most effective way of deterring graffiti is removing it within 24 hours. This immediate attention indicates that as a community you are not going to tolerate this type of behavior.

Other Prevention Tips

Keep the overall appearance of your neighborhood clean, remove litter and garbage, fix broken fences, and ensure lighting functions properly. If you spot graffiti on public property call the Graffiti hotline at 604-233-3307 ASAP to inform them of the location. If you see a person in progress of perpetrating this crime, call the police. If everyone does their part we can rid our communities of graffiti and keep our neighborhoods clean!



Johnson Avenue Annual Block Watch Party

The Johnson Avenue block watch group were also joined by our Auxiliary Constables for a fun filled day.



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police



City of Richmond