Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

VISION CENTER

(Neb.)-Winter Weather Drving Tips From The Chadron PD

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/08/2013 02:53 PM

1. Allow enough time to arrive safely at your destination. Get an early start and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
2. Keep your gas tank full. It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a bad storm or you may be caught in a traffic delay.
3. Keep windshield and windows clear. You may want to stop at a safe turnout to use a snow brush or scraper. Use the car defroster and a clean cloth to keep the windows free of fog.
4. Slow down. A highway speed of 65 miles per hour may be safe in dry weather, but an invitation for trouble on snow and ice. Snow and ice make stopping distances much longer, so keep your seat belt buckled and leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Bridge decks can be icy when other areas are not. Remember to avoid sudden stops and quick direction changes.
5. Be more observant. Visibility is often limited in winter by weather conditions. Slow down and watch for other vehicles that have flashing lights, such as snow plows, visibility may be so restricted during a storm that it is difficult to see the slow moving equipment.
6. When stalled, stay with your vehicle and try to conserve fuel while maintaining warmth. Be alert to any possible exhaust or monoxide problems.
7. Other suggested items to carry in your car are an ice scraper or commercial de-icier, a broom for brushing snow off your car, a shovel to free you car if it is "snowed in", sand or burlap for traction if your wheels should become mired in snow and an old towel to clean your hands.
8. It is also a good idea to take along water, food, warm blankets and extra clothing. A lengthy delay will make you glad you have them. Weather conditions may warrant detouring traffic from the main roadway. It is strongly suggested that drivers always keep an updated map containing the areas of travel. If you have a cellular telephone, pre-load your local law enforcement or the Nebraska Department of Roads phone numbers for convenient and updated road conditions.
9. Put an extra car key in your pocket. A number of motorists have locked themselves out of their cars when putting on chains.

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