



HARVARD

Campus Services

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Date: 11/30/10

Toolbox Talk #34

WINTER DRIVING



Check tires for proper tread wear, tire pressure and damage



Increase following distance for bad weather, dry road conditions require a 4 second following distance

Environmental Health, Safety & Emergency Management

Cambridge Campus
46 Blackstone St.
Cambridge MA, 02139
(617) 495-2060

Longwood Campus
107 Ave. Louis Pasteur
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 432-1720

Winter driving is the most difficult driving season. Snow and ice make even the most routine drive dangerous. Before winter weather arrives, make sure your vehicle is in good condition, keep in mind how you and your vehicle may be affected by the elements and be prepared for emergency situations.

Vehicle Checks

- Check coolant level
- Check condition and power output of batteries
- Check brakes for wear or damage
- Inspect tires for wear and proper inflation
- Test heater, defroster and fans for proper operation
- Inspect windshield for cracks, they will expand when glass is heated from inside
- Replace worn windshield wiper blades

On the Road

- Clear all ice, snow and dirt off of windows mirrors and lights
- Clear snow from all vehicle surfaces-snow sliding off roof can block windshield
- Know condition of road surface, touch brakes to measure effectiveness
- Reduce speed over bridges, suspended surfaces often freeze before roads
- Increase normal following distance of 4 seconds an additional second or two allowing more time to stop on wet, icy roads
- Antilock braking systems (ABS) are only effective when full pressure is applied
- If your vehicle is not equipped with ABS, pump your breaks when stopping to retain steering control
- Use head lights any time there are adverse weather conditions
- Do not solely use parking/running lights while driving in adverse conditions

Pedestrians

- Pedestrian's vision may be compromised by bulky winter clothing or weather
- Snow on cars and plowed piles obstruct drivers view of pedestrians
- Slippery roads present hazards for both drivers and pedestrians

Emergency Preparedness

- Warm clothing hat, gloves, coat and boots should be worn or kept in car
- Flashlight with new batteries
- First aid kit
- Small shovel
- Cell phone