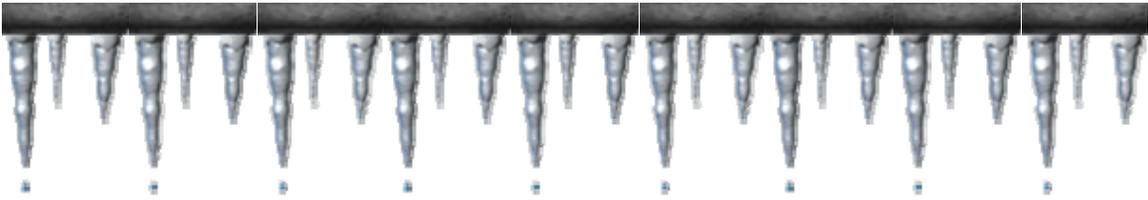


BLIZZARDS



What is a blizzard?

Blizzards are dangerous winter storms that are a combination of blowing snow and wind resulting in very low visibilities. While heavy snowfalls and severe cold often accompany blizzards, they are not required. Sometimes strong winds pick up snow that has already fallen, creating a ground blizzard.

Officially, the National Weather Service defines a blizzard as a storm which contains large amounts of snow OR blowing snow, with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibilities of less than 1/4 mile for an extended period of time (at least 3 hours). When these conditions are expected, the National Weather Service will issue a "Blizzard Warning". When these conditions are not expected to occur simultaneously, but one or two of these conditions are expected, a "Winter Storm Warning" or "Heavy Snow Warning" may be issued.

Blizzard Warning: Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 mph or more, AND Visibility frequently below 1/4 mile in considerable snow and/orblowing snow, AND Above conditions are expected to prevail for 3 hours or longer.

Winter Storm Warning: Issued when more than one winter hazard is involved producing life threatening conditions, such as a combination of heavy snow, strong winds producing widespread blowing and drifting snow, freezing rain, or wind chill.

Before the Winter Season Begins:



Install good winter tires. Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.



Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal.

-  Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
-  Plan long trips carefully.
-  Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions. Always travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person.
-  If you must go out during a winter storm, use public transportation.
-  Dress warmly. Wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, light weight clothing.
-  Carry food and water.
-  Store a supply of high energy "munchies" and several bottles of water.
-  Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter for more information on winter driving.

Have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- * Battery
- * Antifreeze
- * Wipers and windshield washer fluid
- * Ignition system
- * Thermostat
- * Lights
- * Flashing hazard lights
- * Exhaust system
- * Heater
- * Brakes
- * Defroster
- * Oil level (if necessary, replace existing oil with a winter grade oil or the SAE10w/30 weight variety)

For additional information click the below links:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/fgz/science/blizzard.php?.wfo=fgz>

<http://www.readycolorado.com/natural.php>

<http://www./ready.gov>