



PLAINFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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VEHICLE WINTER SURVIVAL KIT

Everyone should have a winter survival kit inside their vehicle in case you get stranded during a winter storm and have to wait inside your vehicle for help to arrive. Here's a checklist of basic items to include in your **vehicle winter survival kit**:

- Keep your kit in a red or brightly colored backpack that could then also be used to signal for help.
- A whistle to signal for help.
- Pieces of bright colored cloth to tie to your antenna or hang outside your car window to signal for help.
- Emergency road flares and reflectors.
- A shovel, windshield scrapper and small broom.
- A tow chain or rope.
- Road salt, sand or cat litter for traction.
- Booster cables.
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags.
- Extra gloves, hats and socks (at least 2 sets of each).
- Packages of chemical hand warmers.
- Non-perishable food/snack items and bottled water.
- A battery powered radio and flashlight (with extra batteries).
- A cell phone adapter to plug into your vehicle's lighter.
- A large coffee can with small candles and matches (a lit candle can be placed inside the coffee can).
- A first aid kit.

When traveling during the winter season try to plan ahead so you can avoid or limit travel during winter storms. Do not travel if there are low visibility conditions. If you must travel, let someone know where you're going, what route you're taking and what time you expect to arrive so they can notify authorities if you don't arrive. Keep your vehicle's gas tank full or near full to avoid ice in the tank/fuel lines and so you'll have extra fuel in the event you get stranded.

If you're stranded in your vehicle during a winter storm please remember the following survival tips. Stay in your vehicle; don't leave your vehicle unless help is visible within 100 yards. Walking in a storm is dangerous; you could become exhausted or get lost. Use your cell phone to call 9-1-1 and let them know where you are stuck. Move anything you will need, such as your emergency kit, from your trunk into the passenger compartment. Tie a bright colored cloth to the antenna or hang it outside your window to signal for help. Periodically clear your hood and roof of snow so your vehicle is visible. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and check it before you start your engine. A blocked exhaust pipe will allow deadly carbon monoxide to build up inside your vehicle. Run your vehicle for ten minutes every hour for heat. Open one window slightly to allow for fresh air. To reduce battery drain only keep your dome light on and use your flashers and headlights if you hear another vehicle approaching. Move your arms and legs to stay warm and to stay awake. Wrap your body and head with extra clothes, blankets and newspapers. Huddle with other people for warmth. Don't eat snow because it will lower your body temperature.