The three P’s of Safe Winter Driving:
PREPARE for the trip; PROTECT yourself; and PREVENT crashes on the road.

**PREPARE**

**Maintain Your Car:** Check the battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers. Keep your windows clear, check your antifreeze and put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir.

**Have On Hand:**
- A flashlight
- Jumper cables
- Abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, etc)
- Shovel
- Snow brush
- Ice scraper
- Blankets
- Warning devices (like flares)

**If Stopped or Stalled:** Stay in your car, don’t overexert yourself, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light. If you run your car, run it just enough for you to stay warm.

**Plan your route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

**PROTECT YOURSELF**

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.
PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
- If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.

Remember when Cold Weather Driving!

- During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know your brakes: *stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.*
- Stopping distances are longer on ice and water-covered ice.
- Don’t idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.