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Civil Air Patrol
United States Air Force Auxiliary
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Winter Car Safety Tips:

1. Ice scraper and windshield de-icer: Seeing clearly is always critical for safety. Don't let your car's defrost do your work. Clear the windshield and other windows completely before driving.
2. Wiper blades: Snow and ice easily damage or destroy the wiping surface of a wiper blade. If you have had the same pair of wipers for at least six months invest in a new pair now.
3. Traction helper: Think about putting a tube of sand or a container of kitty litter in the trunk. Spread around your tires if you are stuck in icy conditions, these substances can assist you in getting free.
4. Fuel system anti-freeze: Built-up moisture in your car's fuel lines can freeze in cold weather, leaving you stranded. Keep moisture out of your car's fuel system by using alcohol based fuel, or by periodically adding fuel antifreeze to your fuel.
5. Blankets and other survival gear: Protect yourself if you should become stranded. Put blankets, gloves, flashlights, nutrition items, and light sticks in the trunk.
6. Exhaust: Remember the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning. Even at concentrations of less than 0.1 per cent, lethal saturation of the blood can occur in just a few hours. Regular vehicle maintenance and inspection of the exhaust system is vital to protect you and others from the dangers of CO.
7. Battery dangers: Improper procedures in jump-starting a dead battery can turn the battery into a lethal bomb, causing thousands of serious eye injuries each year. All vehicle batteries contain sulfuric acid and produce hydrogen and oxygen gases. When these gases come into contact with a spark or flame the battery can explode, sending battery fragments and acid flying. If you don't feel comfortable jump-starting or replacing a dead battery yourself, by all means call a professional. If you should get battery acid into your eyes, do not panic. DO flush your eyes immediately with any "drinkable" liquid on hand, such as water, milk, juice, or any soft drink. Every second counts, to avoid serious corneal burn or blindness. It is a good idea to wear glasses [ideally safety glasses] when changing batteries, or jump-starting your car.
8. Winter driving is different: Give yourself extra time. Increase the distance between yourself and the car in front of you, even if the road seems dry and clear. Assume that bridge decks are slick. Continue to watch for deer, which seem always ready to leap into your path when you are least expecting it. Keep your washer fluid topped off, so that you can regain your forward vision after other traffic blasts you with slush and melted snow. Make sure your tire treads will give you adequate traction.