

Basic tip for driving in snow country

By Tracy Franklin

Winter is upon us as we begin to see our first accumulative snowfall and cold, icy conditions. Every year families travel to South Lake Tahoe for Thanksgiving and Christmas, leading to congested roadways and an increase in pedestrian traffic.

Many of these travelers are foreign to winter weather and do not have much experience driving in icy conditions. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department reminds motorists to be alert and courteous so that everyone can arrive at their destination and enjoy the holiday season with their friends and loved ones.

To help everyone stay safe this holiday season, South Lake Tahoe Police Department recommends the following tips:

- Make sure your tires are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition.
- Check your brakes, lights and windshield wipers to make sure they are functioning properly.
- Warm up your vehicle and make sure your windshield is clear of ice and snow before driving.
- Be alert. Constantly scan the road for hazards and give yourself enough room to react safely.
- Remember, stopping distances can double in rain and triple in snow.
- Minimize distractions, such as turning off or silencing your cell phone.
- Do not use cruise control during wet or snowy road conditions. Cruise control can cause skidding and loss of tire traction in winter conditions.
- Buckle your seat belt! Wearing a seat belt is the best defense to prevent injury and death in a crash. This

includes buckling children into properly installed child safety or booster seats.

- Carry an emergency kit in your trunk for safety, comfort and possible repairs. Ensure properly fitted tire chains in case of severe winter weather.

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