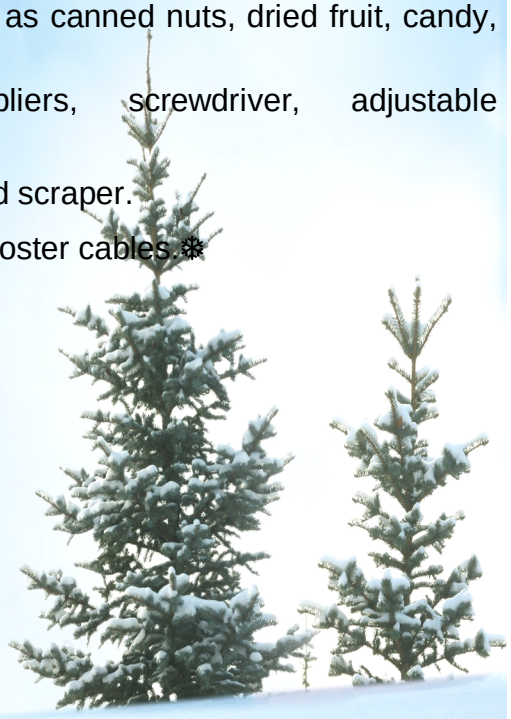
Safety Theme
www.njsig.org New Jersey Schools Insurance Group January 2016

Winter Driving Tips

Reliable transportation is especially important in the winter. If you have a car, make sure it is ready for whatever winter may bring. The following precautions may help you to avoid an unpleasant or dangerous situation while traveling:

- You should keep your car in top operating condition all year round for safety and fuel economy. It is especially important to winterize your car by checking the following:

•*ignition system*	•*fuel system*	•*brakes*
•*battery*	•*exhaust system*	•*wiper blades*
•*lights*	•*antifreeze*	•*defroster*
•*tire tread*	•*proper grade oil*	•*snow tires*
•*cooling system*	•*heater*	

- Keep your gasoline tank as nearly full as possible. This will minimize water in the tank and will provide the maximum advantage in case of trouble.
- A cell phone can be a very useful item in emergencies.
- Carry a winter storm car kit, especially if traveling long distances or, in the northern states, at *all* times. A winter storm car kit should contain sleeping bags, or two or more blankets.
- Two empty 3 pound coffee cans with lids. One may be used for sanitary facilities, the other to burn candles for heat. Use a catalytic heater if available. A catalytic heater relies on a chemical reaction to produce heat. (Whether using this type of emergency heat source or your car's own heater, be sure to ***leave a window open*** for air circulation. Carbon monoxide poisoning can happen without the victim being aware of it until it's too late.)
- Matches and candles.
- Winter clothing, including wool caps, mittens and overshoes.
- Large box of facial tissues.
- First aid kit with pocket knife.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- Small sack of sand.
- One set of tire chains.
- Shovel.
- Food supply (high calorie, non-perishable food such as canned nuts, dried fruit, candy, etc.)
- Tools (pliers, screwdriver, adjustable wrench).
- Windshield scraper.
- Battery booster cables.