

# DEFENSIVE DRIVING IN WINTER CONDITIONS

*A traffic safety message from the County Road Association of Michigan*

- ❄️ Improve visibility by clearing all snow and ice from the entire car – hood, roof, trunk, turn signals, tail lights, headlights, windows, mirrors and fender wells.
- ❄️ Driving with headlights on low-beam provides better road illumination in snow and fog than using high-beams.
- ❄️ Remember posted speed limits are set for ideal road and weather conditions. Slow down when visibility and road conditions are impaired by bad weather or traffic.
- ❄️ Avoid sudden starts, stops and turns. Accelerate carefully so car wheels don't spin.
- ❄️ The best technique for braking under icy or snowy conditions if you do not have an anti-lock braking system (ABS) is to use "threshold" or "squeeze braking". This is done by applying the brakes firmly to a point just short of lock up, and then easing off the brake pedal slightly. Applying steady pressure is better than "pumping the brakes" and should be practiced on dry pavement prior to driving on snow.
- ❄️ If you do have ABS, remember to apply steady pressure to the brake pedal. The ABS will automatically pump the brakes to keep the wheels from locking and the vehicle from skidding.
- ❄️ Anticipate potential danger such as ice on bridges, snow-covered lane markings, stalled cars and poor visibility.
- ❄️ Adjust speed, increase distance between other cars or change lanes to avoid trouble. Watch out for other drivers who may be unprepared for changing road conditions.
- ❄️ In a skid, ease off the accelerator and don't lock up the brakes. Carefully steer in the direction you want the car to go and straighten the wheel as soon as the car begins to go in the desired direction.
- ❄️ Always wear your seat belt, be sure every passenger is properly buckled and do your best to limit distractions!



**Remember: Ice and Snow- Take it Slow!**

Information provided courtesy of the American Automobile Association (AAA)  
and your county road commission.