

# Safety Corner

## "Let's Talk Winter Road Safety"

There are so many things a driver should know and focus on when it comes to ensuring motorist and passenger safety during winter conditions. There are seasonal words like winter storm watch, winter storm warnings, blowing and drifting snow advisory, black ice, and snow cloud that are used to describe the various conditions. County personnel will be ready to tackle winter weather challenges across the state. Although crews are well prepared, they are not magicians. Motorists should watch for dispatched snowplows when snow has fallen and winds are calm enough for the operators to see. It is unlawful to follow more closely than 100 feet when it is plowing snow, spreading salt or sand or displaying a flashing amber or blue light. Drive with your lights on so you can be seen and do not attempt to pass a plow until the plow reaches a clear area. Snowplows usually leave a ridge of snow and swirling snow can add to the hazards of passing or following too closely.

Lincoln County Safety Committee urges our employees to make sure everyone in their vehicle is wearing a safety belt. Remember -- Don't take chances! Ice and snow means take it slow.

### Driving safely on icy roads

1. Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least 3x times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
2. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
3. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
4. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
5. **Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.**
6. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.

### If your rear wheels skid...

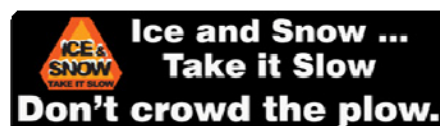
1. Take your foot off the accelerator.
2. Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
3. If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
4. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes.

### If your front wheels skid...

1. Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately.
2. As the wheels skid sideways, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

### If you get stuck...

1. Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
2. Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
3. Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out.
4. Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
5. Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction.
6. Try rocking the vehicle. Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.



## Safety Committee Members

- Vic White, Chairman
- Robin Benson, Vice Chair
- Brenda Rebo, Record Keeper
- Ken Boyd, Training Officer
- Roby Bowe
- Kelley Brown
- Amy Smart
- Sami Pierson
- Dennis Day
- Karmen McKinney
- Lisa Oedewaldt
- Terry Steiger
- Gregg Baney

## Monthly Departmental Safety Meetings

Please remember, monthly departmental safety meetings must be documented and attendance rosters turned into Brenda Rebo. Attendance rosters should be turned in at the conclusion of each monthly safety meeting. The county will continue to conduct quarterly dinner gift certificate drawings for employees of departments who have 100% attendance at their monthly safety meetings. Employees attending all 12 departmental safety meetings shall be eligible for a safety incentive award at the end of the year.

### "UPCOMING SAFETY CORNER TOPICS"

1. ***Defensive Driving***
2. ***Violence in the Workplace***
3. ***Impaired Driving***

## Lincoln County Safety Committee Mission Statement

To develop, put into practice, and maintain the Lincoln County Injury and Illness Prevention Program which promotes safety awareness and safe work practices for all county departments and employees and that is in compliance with all federal, state, and county requirements in order to reduce and prevent accidents, injuries, and illnesses of employees.

