



Conewago Township Police Department

Adams County

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Preparing for more than the holidays.

Now that Halloween is passed, and our candy fix has been satisfied, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and Christmas lights are soon to be on full display, we should give some thought to what might also be just around the bend. Winter driving poses a set of challenges that are not hard to meet with some simple preparations.

Before the temperatures drop and the roadways get slick with snow and ice, have your vehicle serviced. Ask your mechanic to look at the following items as part of the pre-winter inspection:

- Wiper blades.
- Vehicle battery. (It's better to replace an old battery before it fails)
- Tires. (All season or winter-specific tires are your best choice)
- Check or add cold weather window washer fluid.
- Check engine coolant.
- Rear window and side mirror defrosters. (If applicable)
- Check brakes and suspension components.

Be prepared for the possibility of being stuck in your vehicle for an extended period. You could get caught in a traffic jam on a highway or stuck on a backroad until help arrives. If remaining with your vehicle, which is usually the safest option, consider a few things in your winter prep:

- Make sure that the tailpipe is clear of snow or debris.
- Keep a portable snow shovel in your trunk along with tire chains.
- Keep your fuel tank full.
- Have blankets, extra clothes, and water available. (A snack is not a bad idea)
- Keep your phone charged.
- Have a flashlight or other signaling device available.
- Keep your vehicle hazard flashers activated.
- Road flares and other emergency markers are a must.

It's far better to be prepared for an eventuality that never materializes than finding yourself in a situation with no idea of what to do. Think ahead and make it a family discussion.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

Sincerely,
Gary L. Baumgardner – Chief of Police