# proActive Safety Services

**Weekly Safety Meeting** 

## WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Driving deaths increase in the winter months. In many areas of the country winter driving conditions begin much before winter does. Over twenty five percent of all automobile accidents in the United States area caused by adverse weather conditions. Over three quarters of deaths due to ice and snow are attributed to motor vehicle accidents.

#### Why is driving in winter weather conditions so dangerous?

The hours of darkness increase while daylight hours decrease. Together with fog, rain, snow, sleet, and ice, this problem greatly increases the dangers of driving in the winter months.

### What should I do to prepare my vehicle for the winter months?

Ensure that your vehicle is prepared once you see the leaves start to change on the trees. You should examine your tire treads, windshield washing fluid, and have a mechanic check the oil, cooling system, belts, hoses, and battery.

### How can winter accidents be prevented?

Give yourself more time to arrive alive. Take your time while on roads your are unfamiliar with. Watch your speed with heavy loads.

"Black" ice is clear water that has frozen on dark roadways, presenting a hidden trap for motorists who cannot see the slick pavement. Black ice is particularly prevalent on bridges, below overpasses and in areas surrounded by trees. Black ice can form even when it's not raining or snowing. In freezing areas of the United States, condensation from dew on roadways will freeze, forming a thin layer of ice that creates one of the slickest road conditions there is. Even in areas that aren't accustomed to freezing temperatures, such as the Gulf Coast and Southeast, a sudden blast of cold air from the north can quickly freeze and leave roadways very slick. It is because black ice can form so quickly and is so camouflaged on the road that Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials call it the deadliest of all winter driving hazards

### Be prepared if you get stranded int a remote area!

One of the most frightening winter scenarios is to be stranded along an interstate or some remote or unknown area due to your car breaking down or getting stuck in a ditch. Equip your car with an emergency car kit. It is also wise to carry a charged cell phone or other communication device with you, especially when driving long distances or to unfamiliar areas, so that you can call for emergency assistance.

Have you ever been stranded in winter weather? If so, what was it like? How did you navigate your way to safety?

### Work Site Review: Hazards/Safety Suggestions

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