

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Winter in the Catskills brings snow, ice, and unpredictable road conditions. The Sullivan County District Attorney's Office urges all residents to stay safe by following these New York State winter driving guidelines.

Vehicle Preparation

- **Check Your Tires:** Ensure proper inflation and tread depth. Consider winter tires for added traction.
 - **Test Your Battery:** Cold weather reduces battery capacity—have it checked before the season.
 - **Pack an Emergency Kit:** Include blankets, flashlight, food, water, and a first-aid kit.
 - **Clear Snow & Ice:** Remove snow from the roof, windows, and lights to maintain visibility.
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Safe Driving Techniques

- **Slow Down:** Stopping distances increase on snow and ice.
 - **Increase Following Distance:** Leave extra space between vehicles.
 - **Avoid Sudden Movements:** Brake and steer gently to prevent skids.
 - **Use Headlights:** Improve visibility in snow or sleet.
 - **Don't Use Cruise Control:** It can cause loss of control on slippery roads.
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Awareness & Caution

- **Monitor Weather Forecasts:** Check conditions before traveling; avoid unnecessary trips during storms.
 - **Watch for Black Ice:** Especially on bridges and shaded roads.
 - **Stay Calm in Skids:** Ease off the accelerator and steer in the direction you want to go.
 - **If Stranded, Stay with Your Vehicle:** Keep the exhaust pipe clear and run the engine intermittently for warmth.
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In the Event of an Accident – Call for Help

- **Dial 911 first.** Police must be notified of any accident involving injury, death, or property damage.
 - Emergency responders will provide medical assistance and file an official accident report.
 - The Sheriff's Office Patrol Division can also assist, but 911 is the fastest way to reach help.
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Local Resources

- **511NY:** Real-time road conditions and closures — Dial **5-1-1** or visit 511ny.org
 - **Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County:** Winter safety and preparedness resources — sullivanccc.org
 - **NY-Alerts:** Weather and emergency notifications — alert.ny.gov
 - **National Weather Service** – weather.gov
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Message from the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office

Your safety is our priority. Please drive responsibly, prepare your vehicle, and stay alert during winter weather. Together, we can reduce accidents and keep our community safe.