

## **Ready to Hit the Road This Winter?**

With colder weather, it is imperative that you make sure your car is winterized. Along with the blankets, candles, matches and snow shovel, don't forget the food! Even if you are not traveling far, you need to be prepared for the worst. It is important to keep in mind that of all the deaths in winter, 70 percent occur in automobiles.

### **18 Must Have Car Kit Essentials**

1. Fresh drinking water.
2. Food (nuts, dried fruit, energy bars or cans of liquid nourishment).
3. Waterproof matches and candle.
4. Flashlight.
5. Road Flares.
6. Whistle.
7. Blankets.
8. First Aid Kit.
9. Towel.
10. Collapsible Shovel.
11. Jumper Cables.
12. Cell Phone & charger.
13. Rope.
14. Cutting device (box cutter, pocket knife).
15. Duct tape.
16. Tool kit.
17. Gloves, hat and boots.
18. Chains or traction devices.

These basic items should sustain a person for several days. If you are traveling in conditions that may turn hazardous keep in mind to have enough supplies and proper clothing for all members traveling in your vehicle.

Other supplies that are good to have on hand include moist wipes, waterless soap, plastic cups, plastic sandwich bags to serve as a dish and large garbage bags for trash. You might also want to stick in some of the single-use hand warmers to keep hands and feet warm. You can often find these in the hunting and/or sports sections of stores.

If you do become stranded, don't panic. Stay in your vehicle. If you leave your vehicle, you may get lost; especially if visibility is a problem. To avoid carbon monoxide build up inside the vehicle, clear snow from the exhaust pipe and open a downwind window for ventilation. Run the motor and heater only when necessary. It is important to keep fresh air circulating.

If you are concerned about road conditions, call the Missouri Highway Patrol's winter road report at 1-800-222-6400. You can also visit the Missouri Department of Transportation's road conditions site on the web at [modot.org](http://modot.org).

**Questions?** Contact Amanda Marney, Agriculture Preparedness Specialist, (417) 669-4362, [marneya@missouri.edu](mailto:marneya@missouri.edu).