

Ask the Chief – winter driving safety tips

As Minnesotans we are blessed with the opportunity to experience the seasons in all their glory; Autumn for the color changes, spring for the new life, summer for the sun shine and winter for the COLD and SNOW... Well having three good seasons makes tolerating the winter a little easier....

The truth is that winter can be both a great time and a tragic time. The difference between the two is how well prepared you are for winter. I encourage everyone who drives to have their vehicle and tires checked for safety. I would then make sure to have a winter survival kit in your car that includes, blankets, candles, warm clothing and snacks. The next thing to do is dress for the weather. It may not be the most fashionable thing to do but when it's cold, layers are the best thing to wear. IF you need to change into something else bring it with you. Finally, the most important consideration is, "Do you really need to go out?" More people are hurt and killed each year simply because they chose to leave home in weather and road conditions that were not safe to be in or on. When the weather is dangerous stay home. If you must venture out leave early and take it slow. I tell my own family and friends that "When in doubt, don't". Don't take unnecessary chances by risking your life on something that can wait. Plan ahead, be prepared and enjoy the winter season.

Sincerely,

Chief Bill Bolt