



## GET AN EMERGENCY CAR KIT

It's important to have the appropriate safety and emergency winter equipment always stored in your car. The basic emergency kit for cars should include the following items:

- **Food** – that won't spoil, such as energy bars
- **Water** – in plastic bottles so they won't break if frozen (change every six months)
- **Blanket**
- **Extra winter clothing** – jacket, mitts, hat, socks and boots
- **First aid kit** – with seatbelt cutter
- **Road flares or warning light**
- **Tools for vehicle repair** – booster cables, jacks, tow rope, gas line antifreeze
- **Tow rope**
- **Small shovel, scraper and snow brush**
- **Axe**
- **Fire starter, lighters, matches, candles**
- **Crank flashlight**
- **Whistle**
- **Toilet paper**
- **Satellite phone, CB radio, two way radio, or cellphone booster**

## KEEP UP TO DATE ON THE STATUS OF WINTER ROADS

**Find the latest updates on winter roads in the region here:**

Winter Road Hotline:  
(recorded message)  
**1-866-743-6111**

Winter Roads Webpage:  
[rmwb.ca/winterroads](http://rmwb.ca/winterroads)

Sign Up for Email Updates at:  
[subscribe.rmwb.ca](http://subscribe.rmwb.ca)

RMWB Pulse:  
**780-743-7000** or **1-800-973-9663**

**Connect with Parks Canada for information on the Fort Smith Winter Road:**

Phone: **1-867-872-7962**  
Website: [pc.gc.ca/WoodBuffalo](http://pc.gc.ca/WoodBuffalo)

**Connect with Alberta Transportation for information on highways here:**

Phone: **511**  
Website: **511.Alberta.ca**  
Email: [trans.highwayoperations@gov.ab.ca](mailto:trans.highwayoperations@gov.ab.ca)



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## WINTER ROAD SAFETY

Winter in northern Alberta brings snow, ice and colder temperatures that can easily create poor driving conditions. Traveling on winter road systems, such as the Fort Chipewyan Winter Road and La Loche Winter Trail, presents additional hazards and challenges.

For your safety and the safety of others, always drive to conditions, exercise caution and stay prepared by following the tips inside.

# WINTER ROAD SAFETY TIPS



## DO NOT TRAVEL ON CLOSED WINTER ROADS

Traveling on winter roads when they're closed is extremely dangerous. Roads are closed because they're unsafe to use. There could be thin ice, open water and other hazards.

No one inspects or maintains closed winter roads. If you are stranded, help could be a long time coming. Your vehicle may be unsalvageable if you become stranded on a closed road. You may quickly find yourself in severe danger.



## SLOW DOWN

Winter roads are very slippery and often covered in snow. You must be able to control your vehicle, slow down and stop safely at all times.

Poor visibility is common due to fog or precipitation. Slow down for oncoming traffic, especially at night as approaching headlights reduce visibility.

Passing other vehicles on the winter road is not recommended. Winter roads often have blind corners and blind hills where drivers do not have a clear view of oncoming traffic. Passing in these conditions is dangerous and there is a higher risk of head-on collisions that cannot be avoided due to reduced road traction.

Be aware of construction crews and equipment working on the road. If it is necessary to pass slower moving vehicles or equipment, only pass when it is safe to do so. Drivers should never exceed the posted speed limit to pass a vehicle.



## KEEP THE GAS TANK TOPPED UP

When traveling on winter roads, think caution, plan ahead and make sure the fuel tank is full before leaving. There are no regular services on the winter roads in the region.



## BE AWARE WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELING ON ICE

It is very dangerous to speed while traveling on ice crossings or bridges, such as the section of the Fort Chipewyan Winter Road through the Athabasca Delta. Fast moving vehicles build a wave under the ice that can easily damage the road and break ice suddenly when the wave strikes the shoreline, a sandbar or collides with a wave from a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction. Drivers of smaller vehicles should keep this in mind and move over for larger loads and trucks.

Follow all posted signage and stay on the designated route as there may be thin ice in areas surrounding the winter road.

If an ice crossing is wet, it is likely crews have just flooded the road. Reduce speed to 10 km/h when traveling over the crossing and test your brakes once on the other side. Brakes can freeze if wet.

If you see large amounts of water on an ice crossing, ice bridge or on land, do not proceed as it may mean trouble.



## SEE AND BE SEEN

Clear all snow from the hood, roof, windows and lights. Keep windows clear of fog and ice. Your lights always need to be on and remember to dim your headlights for oncoming traffic. Stay on the right side of the winter road, especially on hills and blind corners.

If visibility becomes poor, find a place to safely pull off the road as soon as possible.



## GET WINTER TIRES

Traction is the key to good movement, turning and stopping on wet, slushy or icy surfaces. Vehicles should have good winter tires. Check your tire pressure prior to traveling on winter roads, including the tire pressure of your spare tire. Ensure you have a tire wrench and jack with you.

4x4 vehicles are recommend for traveling on winter roads.



## TOP-UP WINDSHIELD FLUID

Fill up on winter washer fluid and replace wiper blades that streak. Make sure there is enough windshield washer fluid in the reservoir and that it is rated in the -40C temperature range. Carry an extra jug in the vehicle.



## ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE WHEN YOU EXPECT TO ARRIVE

Before you leave, make sure someone will expect you at your destination, so they will call for help if you do not arrive when you should. There is poor or no cell phone reception for long sections of the Fort Chipewyan Winter Road and areas on the La Loche Winter Trail. Cell phone boosters are recommended.



## PREPARE FOR THE WORST, EXPERIENCE THE BEST

Check the weather forecast prior to traveling on a winter road. Avoid traveling in winter storms as storms mean poor driving conditions and visibility.

Conditions can change quickly. Make sure you are ready for whatever comes your way. Any delay or breakdown can quickly become life-threatening.