**WINTER DRIVING TIPS**

**PREVENT CRASHES**

- As always: drugs and alcohol don’t mix with driving—it is worse on slippery roads
- Slow Down and increase distances between cars
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road
- Get plenty of rest/Avoid fatigue
- Stop every three hours
- Rotate drivers.

**PREPARE**

**PROTECT**

Provided by the Madison County Sheriff’s Office – Funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.

**WINTER DRIVING TIPS from the Madison County Sheriff’s Office**

www.safeny.ny.gov

**PREPARE PROTECT & PREVENT**

MCSO 11-11
PREPARE:

* **MAINTAIN YOUR CAR**
  - Is your battery good?
  - Tires? Tread okay? Do you need snow tires?
  - See and be seen—keep your windows clear of snow and ice
  - Put “no-freeze” fluid in your washer reservoir
  - Check your cooling system’s antifreeze

* **HAVE ON HAND**
  - Flashlight
  - Jumper cables
  - Abrasive material (like sand, kitty litter, traction mats, even floor mats)
  - Shovel
  - Warning devices (flares, reflectors, etc)
  - Blankets
  - Snow Brush/Ice Scraper

* **LONG TRIP? ADD:**
  - Food
  - Water
  - Medications
  - Cellphone

* **STOPPED OR STALLED?**
  - Stay in your car
  - Don’t over exert
  - Put bright marker on antenna/in window/shine dome light
  - *Clear exhaust pipe, if you run your car*
  - Run your car just long enough to remove the chill

* **PLAN YOUR ROUTE**
  - Be familiar with the maps/directions to avoid confusion
  - Check the weather reports and adjust starting time
  - Let others know how you are coming and when you will arrive

* **NEW TO COLD WEATHER DRIVING? ** **PRACTICE!**
  - In a wide open snow or ice-covered parking lot, during daylight hours, rehearse slow driving maneuvers
  - Steer into a skid
  - Know what your brakes will do
    - With antilock brakes, stomp and steer
    - Without ABS, pump the brakes to avoid wheel lock-up
  - *Slow Down*, Stopping distances are longer on snow/ice covered roadways
  - Don’t be tempted to start your car in an enclosed space or idle for a long time with the windows up

* **PROTECT YOURSELF**
  - Buckle Up
  - Use Child Safety Seats properly
  - Never place a rear-facing seat in front of an air bag
  - The safest place for all children 12 and under is in the back seat
  - Sit back 10 inches from an air bag