

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

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## Prepare Now for a Safe Commute This Winter



The unpredictable northwest winter weather will soon be upon us. Here are a few things you can do to help make your commutes safer.

### Driving Tips:

- Decrease your speed and increase your following distance.
  - Avoid unnecessary lane changes.
  - Warm your vehicle prior to driving to allow windows to defrost.
  - Drive with your headlights on to increase visibility.
- If you are involved in a collision, **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE** with your seat belt on, that's the safest place to be.

### Check vehicle equipment:

- Check tires for adequate tread depth and proper inflation.
- Replace worn windshield wiper blades.
- Fill windshield washer with a nonfreezing cleaning fluid.
- Check and replace defective lights.
- Check fluid levels including oil and anti freeze.
- Check and replace worn hoses and belts.

### Plan trips:

- Pay attention to weather and traffic reports; use social media sites like Twitter to get up to the minute traffic, roadway, and collision information.
- Allow extra travel time.
- Avoid unnecessary trips.

### What to bring:

- During winter months consider carrying additional equipment in your vehicle such as tire chains, a shovel, first aid supplies, gloves, a flashlight, blankets, and an ice scraper.

The Washington State Patrol (WSP), along with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), will be working hard to ensure safe travel to your destination. You, too, can maximize your safety this winter by following these simple tips.