

Winter driving can be made safer

Snow and ice are a fact of life in Central Oregon. The glistening of snowflakes is beautiful but it can also be treacherous.

There is one traffic death every ten minutes in the nation due to improper driving on icy roads. Seventeen percent of all the traffic deaths are pedestrians. An efficiently-operating vehicle, along with knowledge and experience in driving in hazardous conditions is helpful.

Car Maintenance

Winter car maintenance is important if planning to drive at all in winter months. Brakes should be checked. Battery should be tested for full charge and good conditions. Snow tires should be mounted with tread deep enough to dig into the snow.

The exhaust system should work efficiently with no leaks. Windshield anti-freeze in the washer will keep the windshield from frosting up along with a well-working defroster.

Winter-weight oil should be used in the winter. All lights should be working and kept clean. A tune-up will keep a car running smoother and make starting easier.

Emergency equipment

In case of an emergency, certain equipment is necessary besides a jack and spare tire. A long-handled shovel can be useful along with tire chains, sand or kitty litter, rock salt or traction mats, tow chain, booster cables, snow brush, ice scraper, flashlight and flares.

Before traveling

Before starting any journey in a vehicle, all windows should be thoroughly cleared of ice and snow. The engine should be warmed up for a few minutes with garage doors open.

If it's exceptionally cold a block heater, electrically heated dipstick or a trouble light under the hood will keep the engine from getting too cold.

Turn light on to low beam in order to be seen and be sure to use turn signals.



Don't let this happen to you!!

Traction devices

Traction devices are of utmost importance while driving on icy roads. Tire chains are the best traction devices in severe winter weather. Studded snow tires are second best. Keep tire pressure at recommended levels. Don't combine radials with regular snow tires.

Adding extra weight in the trunk may increase the risk of a spin-out. It costs gas mileage as well.

While Driving

When driving keep the wheels turning on the car; don't lock your wheels. Stay at least two car-lengths back for every 10 miles per hour of speed. That's 10 car-lengths at 50 mph and 12 at 60 MPH. Look out for slowing of traffic.

Plan your stops and slow down well in advance. don't brake in the middle of a curve; brake only when traveling in a straight line. Apply the brake gently then release just before brake locks; repeat with short pauses in between. Pump the brakes, don't slam them on.

Types of skids

There are various types of skids which most be controlled:

1. Front brake lock is when you cannot steer but slide straight ahead;
2. Rear brake lock causes the car to spin in a half circle. this car ends up going backwards;
3. All-wheel brake lock causes the car to go in any direction. This can be prevented by stab braking, or pumping.

Too much acceleration for road conditions causes a vehicle to power slide, (fish-tail) where the rear swings back and forth. The best prevention is to start out more steadily. The car will whip around too fast upon striking ice or loose gravel and when going around corners too fast. This is called a spin-out. Hydroplaning occurs on wet roads while the vehicle is traveling at about 35 mph or more. The wheels begin to lose contact with the road and wind or a slight turn can cause a skid.

Lessons on learning to control skids can take place in a completely deserted parking lot. Most skids can be controlled by removing your foot from the gas pedal. Let the

engine slow you down, take your foot off the brake until you control steering again, and never jam on the brakes; turn the steering wheel in the direction you are skidding; don't over-compensate.

Snow driving

Snow driving causes other problems. Allow extra time to get to where you are going. If you're caught by snow or sleet and visibility is poor, don't continue to travel on the road.

If roads are narrow because of piled up snow, pull over and let oncoming traffic through. Ruts can be dangerous. Steer across them as squarely as possible.

Don't slow down while going up hills. Build momentum to help you climb. Use low gears, not brakes while going down a hill. If you lose control go into a snow bank.

Icy spots are ten times more slippery than dry pavement at 30 degrees. Watch out at intersections, underpasses and shady spots on bridges.

Getting stuck

Getting stuck is inconvenient but it need not cause panic. Clear a path in front of and behind each wheel. Front wheel

should point straight ahead.

Use a higher gear so wheels spin less. Stick-shift cars can be put into second gear and automatic transmissions into drive.

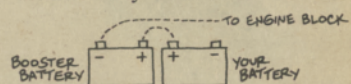
Roll forward, step on the clutch, roll back. Keep doing this a little further each time until you're out.

Sand, road salt or traction mats just in front of spinning wheels can give extra traction.

Avoid spinning the wheels; you'll only dig in deeper. Let tires cool off before trying to ease out. After getting out keep your momentum up with a light foot on the gas.

Car won't start

1. Push down clutch then try starter.
2. Do not try to warm up the battery by turning the lights on. Turn off all accessories when starting.
3. Check battery fluid. If it is frozen, the battery is dead.
4. Using jumper cables takes caution. Your battery and booster battery must be the same voltage, 6 or 12 volts. Remove bet caps of both batteries. Attach one cable to positive terminal of each battery; the other to negative terminal of booster battery and to engine block of your car. Run helper car for ten minutes. Turn off helper car and start your car. Remove negative cables then positive cable immediately after car starts.



Frozen solid

Froze emergency brake—Try to rock if free using reverse. Next time leave car in part or in gear.

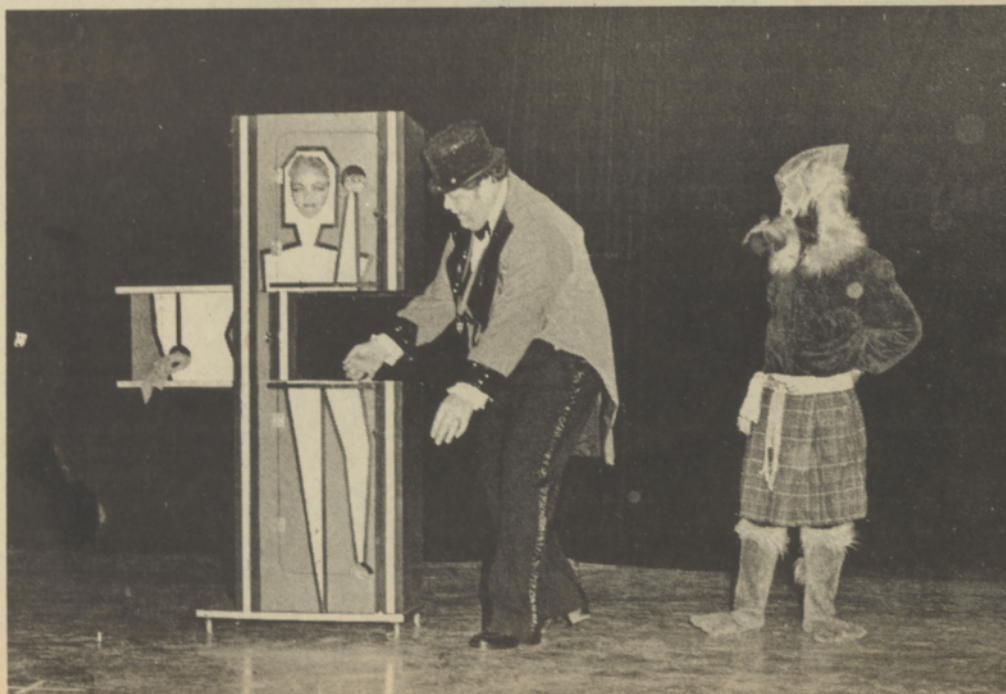
Frozen door lock—Try warming the key with a match. Next time put a piece of tape over the door lock.

Frozen fuel line—Keep your tank at least half full. Add "Dry gas" to the fuel tank.

Frozen windshield wipers—Carefully free them. When you stop the car turn them off to protect the motor.

ALWAYS USE SAFETY BELTS

Magic show captivates young and old



ILLUSION—Trying to figure out how a magic trick is performed takes a lot of concentration. Most of the time, however, spectators are just plain enthralled by the magical spectacle. The Jack Davis magic show called "Funtasia" entertained both young and old alike.

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