



PUT A FREEZE ON **WINTER AUTOMOBILE** **ACCIDENTS**

Most parts of the U.S. deal with at least some wintry weather, which may consist of occasional or frequent snowy or icy conditions. Familiarize yourself with these winter driving tips to help ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

DRIVING ON ICY ROADS

When the temperature dips below freezing, be on the lookout for black ice: a thin coating of ice that appears to be only a wet spot on the roadway. Black ice is responsible for thousands of automobile accidents every year, as drivers don't see it and can lose control of their vehicle upon hitting the slick patch.

Regular icy conditions may be dangerous for drivers, too. If possible, avoid driving on icy roads. Allow your highway department time to treat the roads or wait a few hours for warming temperatures to melt the hazard.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

Unfortunately, accidents do happen. In the event of an emergency, or if your vehicle gets stuck, follow these tips:

- Stay inside your vehicle, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.
- Stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety on busy highways or in hazardous conditions.
- Start your vehicle and use the heater for approximately 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes don't back up into the car.
- Leave your overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you wait for help to arrive, move your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm.