



Whether you go over the river or through the snow to Grandma's house, Ford offers a 10 "dos and don'ts" list for safe winter driving. Pictured is the Ford Explorer.

Do's and Don'ts for Safe Winter Driving

DEARBORN – With winter officially beginning recently, and as drivers prepare for the height of the slick driving season, Ford offers a Top 10 list of driving safety do's and don'ts to help drivers and their families stay safe on the roads this season:

10. DO allow a few minutes to brush and scrape your vehicle.

Clearing windows is crucial for visibility, and removing snow or ice from the top of your car will spare cars behind you from encountering an unexpected snow assault, impairing visibility or even cracking a windshield.

DON'T forget to clean snow and ice off your headlights and taillights as well.

9. DO use winterized windshield wiper fluid to make sure your wiper sprayer doesn't freeze over or crack, preventing you from washing away dirt and salt.

DON'T try to melt ice from your windshield by pouring hot water on it. Using hot water can crack the windshield.

8. DO wash your car regularly to remove salt and dirt from the roadways.

DON'T let road grime prematurely age the body of your vehicle by neglecting to bathe it.

7. DO maintain at least half a tank of gas to prevent unnecessarily stranding yourself in adverse conditions.

DON'T forget to check that all fluids are at proper levels

and ensure all tires, including the spare, have the required pressure and tread.

6. DO prepare your car for an emergency. Essential items to keep in the trunk are a blanket to stay warm, proper attire (boots, jacket, hat and gloves) in case you have to be outside for an extended period of time, a shovel, flashlight with fresh batteries and snacks.

Keep your cell phone charged to call help if necessary.

DON'T forget the kitty litter or sand, which can be used to provide added traction if your car becomes stuck in the snow.

5. DO remain aware of what's around you on the road, including checking your blind spots and keeping an eye out for pedestrians.

DON'T follow too closely. The general rule is the vehicle ahead should pass a road marker two seconds before you.

In slippery conditions, it is recommended to double the amount of space between you and the vehicle in front.

4. DO apply even pressure when braking in slick conditions if your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes.

Keep in mind anti-lock brakes do not shorten stopping distance, but they do help you maintain control.

DON'T become overconfident in snowy and slippery

road conditions.

Always test road conditions with cautious driving when the surface area is wet or icy, particularly on bridges and overpasses.

3. DO turn the steering wheel in the direction of the slide when driving on snowy or icy roads until you gain control.

DON'T apply power or change directions suddenly on snow or ice.

2. DO stay calm if you find yourself stuck in the snow or broken down on the side of the road in adverse conditions.

DON'T leave your car unless available shelter is close by.

If you need to run the engine to stay warm, make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow so the interior stays clear of harmful carbon monoxide.

1. DO make sure you are awake and alert behind the wheel.

If necessary, take a break and grab a coffee.

DON'T lose track of how many egg-nogs you consumed at the holiday party.

The most important holiday safe driving tip of all is to refrain from drinking and driving under all circumstances. If you think you will drink, arrange for alternate transportation ahead of time.

Following these simple rules could save you from a lot of headaches.

OnStar Now Assists in Recovering Stolen Vehicles, Even If They're Not GM

DETROIT – OnStar advisors typically assist in the recovery of more than 500 stolen General Motors vehicles each month, but helping to recover a competitor's stolen vehicle is a new undertaking.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, OnStar subscriber Jean Franklin of Gresham, Ore., used OnStar to help facilitate the recovery of her stolen 2006 Chrysler 300.

Franklin had purchased OnStar FMV, the company's new aftermarket system, just two days before the incident.

OnStar FMV, or For My Vehicle, comes standard with Stolen Vehicle Assistance, a security feature that allows OnStar advisors to use the product's internal GPS to pinpoint the location of a stolen vehicle that has been reported to authorities.

"The stolen vehicle feature is the reason I purchased [OnStar FMV]," said Franklin. "My car had been stolen before, so the police recommended I get it. I am much more comfortable now that the car has OnStar."

Franklin called OnStar to report her stolen vehicle around 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 18. After OnStar provided the Gresham Police Department with the vehicle's location, officers were able to pull over the car and had the suspect in custody within 64 minutes of the original call.

"OnStar was crucial to recovering the vehicle," said Aaron Turnage, a Gresham Police Department officer who worked with OnStar to obtain the vehicle's location.

"Without OnStar we probably would have recovered it, but who knows what condition it may have been in. OnStar helped get the vehicle recovered almost immediately and it was completely unharmed."

Vehicle thefts have been a problem in Gresham. The FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report showed nearly a 27 percent jump in motor vehicle thefts there over the past year.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, winter is popular for vehicle thefts, with thefts on New Year's Day leading the 11 major holidays.

OnStar Advisors have offered Stolen Vehicle Assistance services more than 58,000 times in the company's history.

"OnStar's Stolen Vehicle Assistance feature has proved remarkably effective through the years at reuniting owners with stolen vehicles," said Nick Pudar, OnStar vice president, Business Planning and Development.

"The important thing is helping get stolen cars recovered, whether that is a Chrysler, Ford, Toyota or any

other make." OnStar FMV packs the core features of OnStar into a rearview mirror that can be installed in more than 90 million vehicles on the road.

The option OnStar calls "the new hard-working mirror" can be bought online or at some local retailers and dealerships.

After a customer buys the OnStar FMV and installers add it to a vehicle, the customer pushes the blue button on the device to speak with an advisor who helps select a subscription package.

GM formed OnStar back in 1995. In the past few years, OnStar has presented itself to other car owners as a reliable aftermarket telematics unit.

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'Driving America' Exhibit Anchors Henry Ford Museum Autos

By DAVID RUNK
Associated Press

DEARBORN (AP) – The suburban Detroit museum founded by auto pioneer Henry Ford is revamping its automotive displays, offering a fresh look at its rich collection and showcasing the enormous influence of the automobile on culture and daily life in the United States.

"Driving America" opens to the public Jan. 29 following a year of construction at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. It features some of the most significant cars ever built, from early production vehicles to modern rides, and examines how automobiles shape the nation.

"It is an exhibition that resonates with us all and will challenge us to think differently about what we drive," said Patricia Mooradian, president of The Henry Ford.

The 80,000-square-foot permanent exhibit includes 130 vehicles and more than 60 cases of artifacts. Touchscreen displays will offer access to images, videos and oral histories, as well as allow visitors to explore parts of the museum's collection that aren't on display.

People will be able to create a custom collection that can be accessed later via a smartphone or computer.

"Driving America" replaces the museum's old "Automobile in American Life" exhibit, which closed in early 2011 to make way for construction. It sits between Henry Ford Museum's collection of trains and its "Heroes of the Sky" exhibit, which documents aviation's early years.

Walking through the "Driving America" displays, visitors will see muscle cars, race cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles and luxury cars. Sections look at auto repair, design, safety and marketing, as well as auto-related offshoots such as the road trip.

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