

Winter Survival Kits for Your Cars

Facts

- Each year, hundreds of Minnesotans find themselves stranded on the roadside.
- Winter weather can kill an unprepared person who is exposed to the elements within minutes.

Safe Behavior

- Assemble winter survival kits for all of your vehicles. Keep them in the vehicles all winter. These items will be readily accessible if kept inside your vehicle. The kit should include:
 - Three-pound coffee can, candle stubs and matches which can be used to melt snow for additional drinking water
 - Metal cup
 - Red bandanna and a plastic whistle to alert rescuers to your location
 - Pencil and paper, and quarters for phone calls
 - First aid kit including any essential medications
 - Plastic flashlight with spare batteries (reverse the batteries to avoid accidental switching and burnout, and replace batteries yearly)
 - Two large plastic garbage bags, safety pins (bags are for insulation for feet, safety pins keep the bags together)
 - Snack foods for energy, such as candy bars.
- Some other items that you should carry include extra sets of dry clothing, snowmobile suit, gloves or mittens, winter boots, blankets and/or sleeping bags, jumper cables, a basic toolbox, a shovel, a bag of sand or other grit for traction, tow cable or chain, road flares and reflectors.
- Whenever traveling in winter, call ahead to your destination and convey when you intend to leave, what travel route you will take, and your expected time of arrival.
- If you are stranded, never leave your vehicle. Your chances of survival greatly increase if you stay with your vehicle.
- Consider carrying a cellular phone for use during emergencies. Find a safe place to pull off the road when you need to make a call.

Additional Materials

- For more information about safe driving and winter survival kits, contact the American Red Cross, the Minnesota Safety Council, or the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.