



KNOW Before You Go!

WINTER WEATHER

From blizzards and snow showers to freezing rain and sleet, the weather impact that winter storms bring can be both beautiful and deadly. Winter storms also can be deceiving. Even a small amount of precipitation can cause problems, especially in areas where snow is an unusual occurrence. Many fatalities from car accidents occur as a result of slippery roads. Downed trees and power outages can also be caused by ice storms or by heavy wet snow.



Checklist

Although many roads will have clear sections exposed to sunlight, all National Forest roads will have icy sections due to shading and these surface conditions change with no warning. Motorists must use common sense on all roads and try to avoid unnecessary travel when the weather causes treacherous driving conditions.

- Make sure that the vehicle used is in good working order and has appropriate tires for snow and mud, a jack, and plenty of fuel.
- Do not travel alone and make sure someone knows your travel plans.
- Carry a map of the area, flashlight, tools, water, food, warm clothing and matches or other means for starting a fire.
- Many forest roads are narrow, so travel the appropriate speed for conditions and to allow for on-coming traffic.
- Snow and ice covering a road can disguise surface conditions and location of the shoulder.
- Many of these roads are not cleared of snow or ice. In addition, ice storms or very heavy snows can cause tree limbs to snap and fall across roads and trails.

When going out, always ask yourself:

Do I know the local weather report?

Do I have a NOAA weather radio?

Do I have a preparedness plan?

Do I have an emergency supply kit?

Please visit <http://www.noaa.gov/> for weather updates and

<http://preview.weather.com/ready/checklists/drivingChecklist.html> for driving tips.