



## News Release

Media Contact:  
**Georjeane Blumling, Ph.D.**  
**Vice President Public Affairs**  
757-233-3825  
[Gblum@tidewater.aaa.com](mailto:Gblum@tidewater.aaa.com)

### AAA URGES MOTORISTS TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE DANGEROUS DRIVING CONDITIONS

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (Tuesday, March 5, 2013)** - As Virginian's anxiously study the various weather forecast models to try to determine what type of precipitation will fall on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, AAA calls on motorists to be prepared for whatever nature brings to the Commonwealth. "When snow or heavy rain falls, the road conditions worsen, causing dangerous driving conditions. Motorists are urged to be ready for anything," said Georjeane Blumling, Vice President of Public Affairs for AAA Tidewater Virginia. AAA offers the following tips for winter weather driving:

- **Remove ice or snow.** Take time to remove the snow from the *entire* car so it doesn't blow onto your windshield or the windshields of other drivers. Clear windows, mirrors and lights.
- **See and be seen.** Make sure windshield wipers and defrosters are in good working order. Fill the windshield washer fluid reservoir with a winter cleaning solution that has antifreeze components to prevent it from freezing. Turn on your headlights to be seen by other drivers.
- **Increase following distance.** A greater cushion of safety between vehicles can prevent crashes.
- **Pay attention.** Watch other vehicles. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra seconds to react.
- **Slow and steady.** Drivers who move cautiously are more likely to maintain control of their vehicle, and if control is lost, then the lower the speed often the less severe the incident.
- **Beware of bridges and overpasses.** Bridges, areas under them and overpasses freeze faster than other road surfaces.
- **No cruising.** Don't use cruise control in precipitation and freezing temperatures.
- **If your tires lose traction,** steer in the direction you want to go. If the wheels start to spin or slide while going up a hill, ease off the accelerator slightly and then gently resume speed.
- **Know your car.** Guard against SUV overconfidence. SUV's have the same difficulty keeping control and stopping as other vehicles.
- **If you don't have to drive, don't.** Find alternate means of transportation or wait to drive until the streets are treated.

AAA further reminds drivers to check their Emergency Road Kit to make sure it is replenished. "Every Motorist should be prepared for the possibility of being stranded on the roadside," Blumling added. AAA recommends the following be included in every car's emergency road kit:

- Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats
- Snow shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Window washer solvent
- Ice scraper with brush
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Jumper cables

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- Extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves) AND blankets
- Warning devices (flares or triangles)
- Drinking water/non-perishable snacks
- First-aid kit
- Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench)
- FULLY CHARGED mobile phone with car charger pre-programmed with rescue apps and important phone numbers including family and emergency services

*As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit [AAA.com](http://AAA.com) and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATWnews](https://twitter.com/AAATWnews).*

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