

## STATEWIDE INSURANCE AGENCY DIGEST NO. 112

### DRIVING SAFELY IN HEAVY SNOW

Texans can experience heavy snow conditions, perhaps especially in the more northern sections of the state – although the southeast part of the state experienced significant snow fall as recently as December 4, 2009. In blizzard condition, the number one rule is to “Stay home.” People die in blizzards. However, if you cannot stay off the road, below are some tips on road safety for driving in heavy snow.

1. Drive slowly; make sure your car has snow tires with chains on or in the trunk; make sure you have a full tank of gas, extra clothing, flashlight, food and water, extra windshield cleaner, and emergency flares.
2. Keep a greater distance from the car ahead, start slowing sooner for stops and turns, check traction periodically by tapping the brake pedal and stay aware of conditions outside the car.
3. If the car starts to slide when brakes are applied, stop braking immediately and apply the brakes again but more slowly.
4. Steer into skids; if your car is skidding to the right, turn the steering wheel to the right until you have control then gently steer the car back onto the road or into the proper lane.
5. The American Automobile Association advises you to check weather forecasts before setting out, especially on long trips in isolated areas. Tell family or friends the route you plan take and when you expect to arrive. Bring a mobile phone.
6. If you become snowbound, AAA advises to stay with the car as it offers protection from the storm and is easier for emergency vehicles to spot. If stranded in a blizzard, under no circumstances should you abandon your vehicle and set out on foot. Make sure the exhaust pipe is clear and run the engine for brief periods to warm the car while conserving gasoline.

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Source: Compiled from [www.onthesnow.com](http://www.onthesnow.com)