

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION



# UNDERSTAND

# PREPARE

# ENGAGE

# CAR PREP



### Think before you go

In the fall, winter (and even spring) throughout Weld County, driving on snowy roads or in snowy weather is often unavoidable. We get it. Many either have work or family commitments that require driving in less-than-ideal conditions.

Still, a key to staying safe during snowy weather is asking yourself if you really need to be out on the road during a snowstorm. Before making any decision, monitor weather reports and Snow Desk posts on the county's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Consider not just the amount of snow on the road but also the likelihood of encountering high winds as they can impact visibility as well as a vehicle's ability to move through the snow. If you do decide to venture out however, consider the following tips to make your journey as safe as possible.

### Don't neglect maintenance

Before heading out on snowy roads, take a look at your tires. Ensure they are in good condition (have good tread depth, are not bald and are correctly inflated). Additionally, ensure your brakes and exterior items, such as windshield wiper blades, are functioning properly. Don't forget to make sure your heater and defroster are working.

It's also a good idea to keep at least half a tank of gas in your car at all times so fuel lines don't freeze, and, to comply with Colorado traction laws, have chains in your car (and know how to install them).

### Drive for conditions

Often roads will be *passable*, not completely clear. To drive safely, you may have to lower your speed below the posted speed limit. Leave space between your car and other vehicles to avoid accidents from sudden stops and give yourself extra time to get to your destination.

### Plan for the unexpected

Just as it's important to have a disaster supply kit in your home to help you stay comfortable during emergency events, it's equally as important to have an emergency supply kit in your car before heading out on wintry roads. When considering what items you may need to include in your kit, think about what will help you stay warm and comfortable if your car were to break down or you became stranded. Have blankets and coats along with bottled water and high-energy food like granola.

Preparing for winter driving also means packing items that keep you resilient during changing conditions. Consider carrying jumper cables, an ice scraper, shovels to help you free yourself from snow drifts and kitty litter to help your tires gain traction.

**Learn more and download our Emergency Preparedness Guide at [www.weldoem.com](http://www.weldoem.com)**