

## Winter driving compared to mountain climbing

"People who think they can just jump in their car and go during winter can find themselves in big trouble," warns Safety Engineer Michael D. Shaffer.

Research by Shaffer's company, Campbell Chain Division of McGraw Edison, indicates motorists do not sufficiently prepare for the hazards of winter driving.

"A quick, heavy snowfall can close down an interstate highway," Shaffer says. "Motorists unprepared and poorly equipped can find themselves stranded in a very dangerous situation."

Getting ready for winter driving is not as complex as setting up a mountain climbing expedition, yet Shaffer says there are similarities in preparation of equipment and in learning basic skills.

First, the auto's basic components should be routinely checked. That includes lights, ignition system, brakes, tires and heating/cooling system. Make sure antifreeze is sufficient for the coldest possible weather.

The most important equipment is tire chains or cables. If they haven't been used recently, make sure they fit your current tires and that their attachment devices are intact.

Other components of a winter driving kit include a shovel, small broom or snow brush, extra clothing, an ice scraper, jumper cables, warning devices such as flares, a flashlight and a blanket. For long trips, drinking water and food are advisable.

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2. Windshield wipers and washers
3. All lights for correct operation
4. Front brake assemblies
5. Rear brake assemblies
6. All brake hoses and lines
7. Parking brake
8. Exhaust system
9. Steering and suspension components
10. Front wheel bearings\*
11. Front and rear shock absorbers
12. Tire condition and pressure
13. Pressure test cooling system
14. Cooling system hoses and connections
15. Drive belts adjusted
16. Battery and terminals
17. Choke and carburetor operation
18. Air filter cleaned
19. All fluid levels checked. Fluid added, where necessary
20. Lubricate all hinges and locks

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7. Check ignition wires
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11. Inspect PCV valve
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13. Check and adjust fan belts
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