

## Prepare teen drivers for winter driving

Many young drivers will venture onto the roads this winter season, some for the first time. In fact, there are almost three million drivers in Canada between the ages of 16 and 24.2 That's why it's important for parents to prepare teenagers and young drivers for the difficult winter months, by making sure their vehicles are properly maintained and they've been given helpful instructions and well-stocked emergency kits.

First and foremost, have their vehicles checked thoroughly. Belts, hoses, water pumps, batteries and spark plugs need to be properly maintained. Winter tends to magnify any problems a vehicle might have. Once a thorough under-the-hood inspection is complete, make sure your new driver checks their tire tread and windshield wipers as well as fluid levels like washer solvent and antifreeze/ coolant.

Remind new drivers to turn on their headlights any time they use their windshield wipers. It will help improve visibility and allow them to be seen better by other drivers. Emphasize the importance of clearing off the entire car, not just a portion. If the entire vehicle hasn't been cleared properly, it creates hazardous situations for your child when they are driving, and for other motorists on the

road. It is also a good safety precaution to keep more than a half tank of gas in the vehicle during the cold weather season. It'll be the only source of heat if somebody is stranded.

Although these preventative maintenance tips do help, they by no means serve as a complete deterrent to potential problems. Prepare for a roadside emergency with a special winter kit that includes:

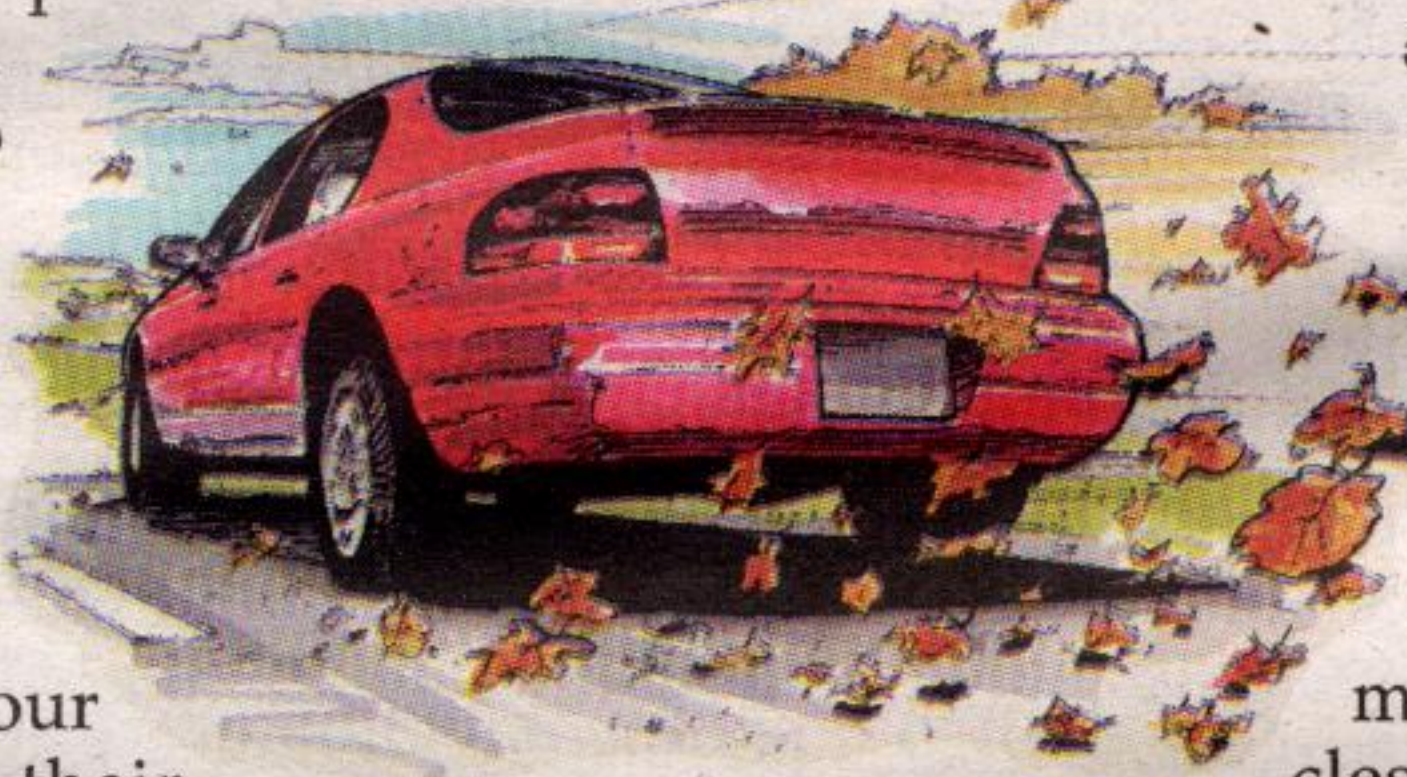
- A cell phone - for calling you in case of emergency
- A portable jump starter - in case of a dead battery, they won't be stranded alone in the cold
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- Emergency flares - so other motorists can see their vehicle
- Sand bags - highly recommended for vehicles with rear-wheel


drive

- A tire inflator and sealer
- Warm clothes and blankets
- Extra de-icer washer fluid and a spray de-icer
- Ice scraper with a snow brush
- Tire traction product
- Shovel


Even though young people today are always on the go, emphasize the significance of these safety tips. It may change what could be a disastrous situation into a simple inconvenience.

—News Canada





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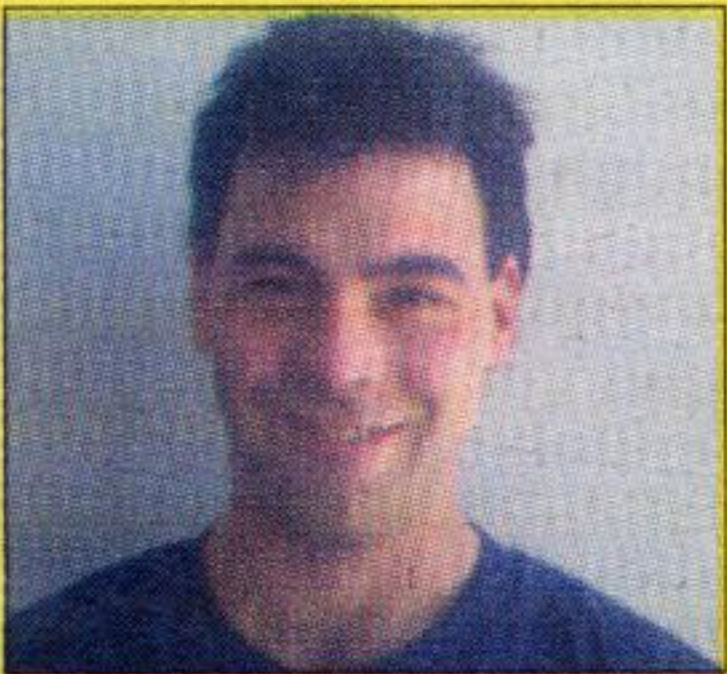
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