

WINTER SNOWSTORM MAY IMPACT HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Be prepared for a blizzard - know what to do to stay safe on the highways

Winnipeg, December 23, 2016 – With a winter storm warning calling for significant snowfall across southern Manitoba on Christmas and Boxing Day, CAA Manitoba reminds Manitobans that they should check the weather and road conditions, and prepare alternative plans if they plan to visit family out of town this weekend.

“The best thing to do if a blizzard hits is to avoid all non-essential travel,” says Erika Miller, Public and Media Relations Specialist for CAA Manitoba. “Your family wants you to be safe. It’s far better to miss out on a dinner or boxing day sale than get stuck in an emergency situation on the side of the road.”

If you absolutely must go out over the next few days, check the weather and current road conditions before you go. Plan your trip and tell someone your intended route, including departure and arrival times. Arrange an alternative place to stay if weather conditions are poor.

Always carry an emergency roadside kit in your car, stocked with enough food and warm clothes for the number of passengers in your vehicle. Keep a fully charged cell phone and pack a car charger with you. Consider keeping sand, salt or non-clumping kitty litter on hand in case you get stuck and the wheels need traction.

Blizzard safety tips

- If you get stuck with your vehicle, stay with your vehicle – it’s shelter and allows help to find you. Never walk away in a storm to flag down help because you can get lost in the snow.
- Don’t overexert yourself by trying to dig your car out. Instead, call for help and ensure your emergency kit items like a scarf distress signal or emergency flares are visible to passing vehicles.
- Do stay warm by exercising occasionally and running the car engine for 10 minutes every half an hour, provided your exhaust pipe isn’t blocked with snow or ice; an exhaust blockage can cause deadly carbon monoxide to seep into the car.

Members who need roadside assistance can put in a request through the CAA mobile app, at caamanitoba.com, or by calling 1-800-222-4357.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Erika Miller, Public and Media Relations Specialist

P 204 262.6134 • C 204 797.4326

E erikam@caamanitoba.com

