



BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

DRIVING

Know your vehicle: Not all cars respond the same to icy, slippery roads. Know how to handle your vehicle and how it responds in various weather conditions.

Slow down: The most important thing to remember when driving on slick roads is that you must travel, steer and brake more slowly than usual. The distance needed to stop on ice is twice as long as that you would need to brake under normal driving circumstances. This means you should keep at least a three car distance from the vehicle directly in front of you.

Watch for ice: Black ice commonly forms on roads that wind around lakes and rivers, in tunnels, on overpasses and in highly shaded, rural areas. Black ice is almost invisible to the naked eye. Be especially leery when driving your car into shaded areas, and slow your vehicle down during your approach.

Certain areas of roadways, because of location or lack of direct sunlight, are almost always more hazardous than others. Use extra caution when driving on bridges, overpasses and tunnels.

HOME

Heating System Checks: Have a heating professional do a routine-check before cold weather arrives. Vacuum the vents and other heating components.

Check the Fireplace: Have the chimney inspected and cleaned. Close the fireplace damper when not in use.

Plumbing: Take care of known issues with pipes that freeze. Pipe insulation can be used to keep them warm during extremely cold weather. Learn how to turn off water at its source so that you can stop leaks immediately if they start.

Smoke/Carbon monoxide detectors: Make sure adequate number are installed and operating properly.

NEVER USE BARBEQUES OR OTHER FUEL FIRED APPLIANCES AS INDOOR HEATING!