

Time to Check Your Holiday Safe Driving List

It's the holiday season and this issue is loaded with a sleigh full of seasonal safe driving resources. Look for links to educational materials addressing drunk driving, drugged driving and winter driving suitable for employees, their family members and the public. We also have a great step-by-step checklist for making sure vehicles are winter road ready.

Have some real holiday shopping to do? Check out the list and links to driving safety-related gifts for all the drivers on your list.

Finally, in this month's [blog](#), Minnesota NETS Coordinator Lisa Kons shares the life-saving gifts we should all have on our wish lists.



Awareness Toolkits Highlight Drunk and Drugged Holiday Driving Risks

This holiday season the Traffic Safety Marketing division of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has launched two campaigns to address the risks of alcohol-impaired and drug-impaired driving.

The campaigns launched December 13 and run through January 1, 2024. They include ready-to-use safety talks and posters as well as audio PSAs. All materials are available in English and Spanish.

[Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#)

The holiday season is known for being merry and bright, but it is also known for being the deadliest season when it comes to drunk driving. Unfortunately, every holiday season, lives are lost due to impaired drivers. This [kit](#) includes a variety of handouts, public service announcements, message board, social media and other resources. A supplementary [campaign](#) focuses on “buzzed” driving, a serious challenge during a season with numerous social events.



[Drive High Get a DUI](#)

Drug-impaired driving is a growing problem on America's roadways. Like drunk driving, drugged driving is impaired driving, which means it is dangerous and illegal in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Whether the drug is obtained legally or illegally, driving while impaired poses a threat to the driver, the vehicle passengers, and to other road users. The message to drivers: if you are impaired by drugs and thinking about driving, pass your keys on to a sober driver.

Here's a helpful [kit](#) featuring graphics, fact sheets and more in both English and Spanish versions.

- [Safety Talk: Holiday Safety](#)
- [Poster: Bring Safety Home for the Holidays](#)
- [Poster: Holiday Safety at the Office](#)



Winter driving can be harrowing, even in areas with milder climates. From icy streets to whiteout conditions, staying safe on winter roads is all about preparing your vehicle and knowing what to expect.

The National Safety Council advises that before the winter season fully sets in, [get started winterizing your car with these steps:](#)

- Test your battery and your wiper blades, and replace them if needed
- Be sure your tires have at least 2/32 of an inch of tread and consider winter tires if you expect plenty of snow and ice
- Check and adjust your tire pressure regularly as it can drop in cold temperatures
- Use wiper fluid rated for -30° F
- Keep your gas tank at least half full

Follow these tips before each drive in the winter:

- If there's snow on your vehicle, brush all of it off — not just the windshield
- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors so they don't interfere with features like automatic emergency braking

WINTER ROAD SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Consider warming up the car before you drive but never leave it running in your garage, even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks bad, consider waiting out the storm; if you must travel, share your plans and route with someone before you leave

When driving in the winter, keep these main rules in mind: [slow down](#), drive for conditions, and increase your following distance. These simple steps will give you more time to spot hazards and react to unexpected situations.

NHTSA also offers these resources:

- [Winter Driving Preparation Tips](#)
- [Winter Driving Skills](#)

Finally, make sure your car has a well-stocked emergency kit, with everything from a properly inflated spare tire and a shovel to jumper cables and warm clothing.

[Check out this full overview of what to keep in your car](#) and talk to your loved ones about stocking the same items in their vehicles.

Thoughtful Holiday Gifts for All the Drivers on Your List

Looking for holiday gifts that will help keep the drivers on your list safe in the year to come? Check out these items, many of which are available from the Minnesota Safety Council.

✓ [Mature Driver Safety Course](#)

Know someone who's over 55? This Minnesota Safety Council course can be completed from the comfort of their own computer. And it's a gift that keeps on giving. Not only do older drivers learn how to stay attuned to how aging affects things like vision and reaction time, under Minnesota law, once they've completed a state-approved defensive driving course like this they'll be eligible for a 10%, three-year auto insurance discount.

✓ [AAA Traveler Road Kit](#)

Vehicle emergencies can happen at any time, but winter can be especially difficult. This compact road kit is



a great gift for family and friends and can make a welcome prize for an employee event. It includes heavy duty booster cables, a 45-piece first aid kit, emergency poncho, aluminum flashlight with 9 LEDs, batteries, roll of duct tape, 2-in-1 screwdriver, utility knife, shop cloth, bungee cord, cable ties, and accident forms and guide.

✓ [Ice Scraper](#)

✓ [Snow Brush](#)

✓ [Folding Snow Shovel](#)



NETWORK OF
EMPLOYERS FOR
TRAFFIC SAFETY
MINNESOTA

Lisa Kons, NETS Coordinator
651-228-7330/800-444-9150
lisa.kons@mnscc.org
474 Concordia Ave, St. Paul, MN 55103

Connect With Us!
[drivesafemn.org](#)



MN NETS is a partnership with the MN Safety Council, funded by the MN Department of Public Safety/Office of Traffic Safety.