

## US Safety Pros, LLC

1139 West Enclave Circle

Louisville, CO 80027

(303) 726-6828

[www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com)

[Louie@USSafetyPros.com](mailto:Louie@USSafetyPros.com)

[www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Winter Vehicle Survival Information

#### LOUISVILLE, CO

With winter driving conditions already happening in some parts of the country, now is a good time to consider getting your vehicles ready. October is Winter Driving Survival month. Louie Delaware, *The Home Safety Guru*<sup>™</sup> and Professional Childproofer recommends that you take some time to get the right goods in your vehicle. Louie says, "Winter weather survival includes being prepared for vehicle accidents and weather problems. Accidents can be multi-vehicle, but frequently are one car accidents due to weather related road conditions, speeding and ice, and reduced visibility. Every year we hear of harrowing tales of someone being stranded. Being prepared for winter conditions can make the difference between life and death, especially if you slide off the road on a less-traveled road."

Important things to remember:

- ▶ Give your car a thorough pre-season check every fall. If you don't know how to do it or don't have the time, have an automotive professional do it for you. Check fluid levels, wiper blade condition, belt condition, headlight and tail-lights, and similar items.
- ▶ Check for tread depth. If not certain as to what should be considered an appropriate winter driving tread depth, take your vehicle to a tire center.
- ▶ Consider having studded snow tires installed on all four wheels.
- ▶ Always keep a full tank of gas, and refill often. A full tank will give you peace of mind and the fuel will not "ice" up as readily as a partially-filled tank.
- ▶ If you must use your car engine to heat the vehicle, always check to make sure the exhaust tailpipe is clear. A blocked tail pipe can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and death. Be sure to open a window when you are running the car engine, and try not to run the engine more than 10 minutes each hour.
- ▶ If you are in a vehicle that is disabled, use bright cloth or surveyor tape, available at hardware and home supply stores, to mark your radio antenna. If you slide off the road and can walk/climb to the roadway, tie markers to any highway signs that are close. A vehicle in the snow quickly becomes invisible unless you make an effort to be seen.
- ▶ If you believe you are going to be stranded for a significant period of time in cold weather, place the emergency space blankets over the windows of your vehicle to reflect body heat and other heat back into the car. Most of the initial heat loss will be through the windows.
- ▶ Your car windows will probably frost over on the inside due to condensation from breathing and water produced by the alcohol stove, if you are using one to melt water.
- ▶ NEVER leave your vehicle unless you can see a building to evacuate to, or it is unsafe to remain in your vehicle. If you are in an isolated area and there may be an air search, spread out a brightly-colored tarp on the ground outside to make you more visible from the air. If you need shelter, use rope and the tarp to make a tent. If you leave your vehicle to go cross country or down the road, leave a note in the vehicle so rescuers know which way to proceed.
- ▶ If you leave your vehicle in white-out conditions, tie one end of your 100' line to the car before leaving. It is very easy to become disoriented in a white-out.

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Now is a good time to consider assembling a winter survival kit for each of your vehicles. Colorado Childproofers recommends getting a plastic storage to contain all of the below goods to be kept in the vehicle:

- ▶ Flares and reflectors
- ▶ Jumper cables
- ▶ Small shovel
- ▶ Bag of sand or cat litter for traction
- ▶ Vehicle Tool kit (e.g., pliers, screwdriver, adjustable wrench, cable ties, wire, electrical tape, duct tape, fuses, etc)
- ▶ Flashlight and spare batteries and bulb
- ▶ Flares or triangle reflectors
- ▶ Jumper cables
- ▶ First aid kit
- ▶ Snack food and water
- ▶ Warm blankets or sleeping bag
- ▶ Warm gloves and boots
- ▶ Tire chains and tow straps (know how to properly install or use these in advance)
- ▶ Cell phone and a cell phone charger
- ▶ Gallon of windshield washer fluid and premixed antifreeze
- ▶ Roll of bright-colored tape
- ▶ Flares
- ▶ 100 feet of brightly colored mason line (available at hardware and home improvement centers)
- ▶ Coffee can with lid and toilet paper (to be used as an emergency toilet)
- ▶ Separate metal can with alcohol burner to melt water
- ▶ Brightly colored tarp (for shelter or helping aerial search planes)

Separately, we recommend storing the following inside the vehicle, some of which could go into a duffel bag:

- ▶ Ice scraper and snow brush
- ▶ First aid kit
- ▶ Snack food and water
- ▶ Warm blankets or sleeping bag
- ▶ Warm gloves and boots
- ▶ Tire chains and tow straps (know how to properly install or use these in advance)
- ▶ Cell phone charger
- ▶ First aid kit
- ▶ Maps & compass
- ▶ 12 hour light sticks
- ▶ Drinking water (1 gallon per person) – store in flexible plastic containers
- ▶ High energy food or bars
- ▶ Sunglasses or ski goggles
- ▶ Reading materials and a deck of cards
- ▶ Hand and toe warmers (disposable chemical type)
- ▶ Space blankets (use to insulate windows, not as a blanket)
- ▶ Roll of paper towels
- ▶ Whistle (to help rescuers find you)

In case you need to leave your vehicle, you should have the following items available to go into a backpack:

- ▶ Whistle (to help rescuers find you)

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- ▶ High energy food
- ▶ Bouillon cubes
- ▶ Tea bags or instant coffee
- ▶ Duct tape
- ▶ Compass
- ▶ Signal mirror
- ▶ Strike anywhere wood matches
- ▶ First aid kit with aspirin, acetaminophen or ibuprofen
- ▶ Wet towelettes or alcohol hand sanitizer
- ▶ 40+ SPF sunscreen and lip balm
- ▶ Bright surveyor tape
- ▶ 100' brightly colored mason line
- ▶ Pocket knife or multipurpose tool

As Louie says, "Having a good winter survival plan and kit can make the difference between life and death while driving. A little up-front preparation can make everyone's travels all the better."

For more information and a complete list of Louie's 90% Safety Facts, go to [www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com)

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*Louie Delaware*  
**The Home Safety Guru™**  
*Professional Childproofer & Home Safety Expert*

*For more information about Louie Delaware and additional 90% Safety Rules, go to his online press kit [www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com). **The Home Safety Guru™** is a registered trademark with the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Louie's book **The Home Safety Guru's Practical Guide to Childproofing** will be published soon.*

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