

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kelli Engen, RN

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist
715-839-4718

kelli.engen@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Tyler Esh

Emergency Management Coordinator
715-839-4736

tyler.esh@co.eau-claire.wi.us

“Watch the Forecast before Festive Travel”

Eau Claire, WI, December 22, 2017 –

Wisconsin’s winter weather forecast often calls for snow. Winter weather affects driving conditions and traffic. The Eau Claire County Emergency Management office and City-County Health Department encourage motorists to plan ahead and drive safely, or not at all, during winter weather.



Kelli Engen, with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department reminds people to “Plan ahead for winter driving, and keep the following items in your vehicle.”

- Shovel
- Flashlight
- Windshield scraper
- Cat litter
- Matches
- Water
- First Aid Kit
- Boots, hat, mittens

When winter weather comes, drive slow and be alert. Stopping quickly in the winter on snow covered or icy roads can be impossible. Slow down when driving on snow or ice. Use care by increasing space between you and the car in front of you. Ask yourself if the speed you’re traveling at is safe for the weather conditions. If the road conditions are bad, you will likely need to drive under the speed limit in order to travel safely. Finally, avoid distractions, such as cell phones, radios, and eating or drinking while driving. It is important to be completely focused on the road and your surroundings.

Emergencies cannot be predicted, but planning ahead can help you if one happens. Wisconsin’s Road Condition line (511) can help you plan your route before you leave. Road conditions may also be viewed on the WIDoT website www.511wi.gov; the *My Routes* option helps you map out your route. When roads become slick from ice and snow, the State Patrol may encourage motorists to refrain from driving unless necessary.

Be sure to travel safe this winter. It is better to arrive later, safely, than put yourself or others at risk for an emergency.

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