

General Information for Snow and Ice

[CFAY Safety Department]

Significant snow falls in the Yokosuka, Ikego, and Negishi areas are uncommon. Although many people reside in, or transit through these hilly environments, these areas can become impassible with just a small accumulation of snow or ice.

How do I walk safely on snow and ice?

Walking on snow or ice is especially treacherous and wearing proper footwear is essential. A pair of well insulated boots with good rubber treads is a must for walking during or after a snow fall. When walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction.

When walking on a sidewalk which has not been cleared and you must walk in the street, walk against the traffic and as close to the curb as you can. Be on the lookout for vehicles which may have lost traction and are slipping towards you. Be aware that approaching vehicles may not be able to stop at crosswalks or traffic signals.

At night, wear bright clothing or reflective gear, as dark clothing will make it difficult for motorists to see you. During the daytime, wear sunglasses to help you see better by protecting your eyes from snow reflection which can help you avoid hazards.

Driving in Snow and Ice

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Traffic in town is easily affected by snow and ice, therefore, allow yourself extra space and extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared/winterized (i.e., snow tires, winter wipers for your windows etc...) and that you know how to handle the road conditions. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.

Tips for driving in the snow:

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't rush things, and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, and turning - nothing happens quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the margin of safety if you have to stop quickly.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold breaking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it. This does NOT mean you can roll through stop signs!
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Try to get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, everyone else may not be as skilled. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.