

Extreme cold calls for extreme caution.

Flint, Michigan. ---

The Genesee County Road Commission is reminding drivers to use extreme caution during these upcoming days of extreme cold and additional snow. The salt and brine used to melt road ice is ineffective at these very low, below-zero temperatures, leaving many roads slick, and black ice a real possibility. And cold, dry snow can whip up suddenly in a gust, causing localized – and deadly – instant white-out conditions.

But another, even more deadly hazard lurks if you do happen to find yourself in a ditch or a snow bank, perhaps uninjured and undamaged but stuck, and all alone. Extremely cold temperatures can quickly turn this relatively minor inconvenience into a truly life threatening situation. Just ask the man who was rescued by a Road Commission driver on such a day last winter. He credits the Road Commission with saving him from freezing to death. The Road Commission would rather not have to rescue YOU.

1. Slow down! Then slow down some more. No sense hurrying to the scene of the accident...
2. Wear your seatbelt and allow even more time to reach your destination.
3. Dress as if you were going to have to be outside for an extended period of time. On foot. At least have cold-weather clothes in the vehicle. Hat, gloves, boots.
4. Carry appropriate winter safety equipment. At least a small shovel and some sand or kitty litter. A few of those disposable hand warmers can really be a comfort, too.
5. Carry some water and high energy snacks in the glove box.

6. Keep your cellphone with you – and fully charged. If you do get stuck, call 911.

7. Stay with the vehicle. Keep a window opened slightly. Run engine sparingly. Check to confirm tailpipe is clear of snow.

8. For more winter safety tips visit our website at www.gcrc.org

Remember...don't crowd the plow!