



Public Safety Press

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Inside this issue:

Winter Car Care & Safety Tips 2

St. Paul Snow Emergency Info 2

Minneapolis Winter Parking Info 3

Winter Car Care Continued 3

Utility Failures 3

Identity Fraud 4

Winter Car Care and Safety Tips

Winter in Minnesota is a beautiful time but it also brings with it some issues of safety, especially on the road. Here are some general car safety tips to keep you safe.

When driving, it is a good idea to take it slow and avoid quick acceleration and sharp turns. Keep plenty of distance between yourself and other vehicles or any obstacle. Tap on the brake pedal far in advance of where you have to stop to test the road surface and give time to make necessary adjustments.

One should also be aware that general maintenance of a vehicle is important, even more so in winter. Read your owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommended service schedules.

- Be sure to get engine problems (hard starts, rough idling, stalling, diminished power, etc.) repaired at a certified repair shop. Cold weather will make existing problems worse.

- Put a bottle of fuel de-icer in your tank once a month to help keep moisture from freezing in the fuel line. Note, too, that a gas tank that's kept filled helps prevent moisture from forming.
- The cooling system should be flushed and refilled as recommended. The level, condition, and concentration of the coolant should be checked periodically. A 50/50 mix of anti-freeze and water is usually recommended.
- Inspect all lights and bulbs; replace burned out bulbs; periodically clean road grime from all lenses. To prevent scratching, never use a dry rag.
- Worn tires will be of little use in winter weather. Examine tires for remaining tread life, uneven wearing, and cupping; check the sidewalls for cuts and nicks. Check tire pressure once a month. Let the tires "cool down" before checking the pressure. Ensure you

Winter Car Emergency Kit

- Portable jump starter and power source
- Flashlight and emergency flares
- First-aid kit
- Tire inflator and sealer
- Bottled Water
- Crackers or energy bars
- Cell phone
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Scarf, hat, extra gloves
- Blankets

have a spare, and be sure the jack is in good condition.

Routine maintenance can give drivers a certain level of comfort but having an emergency kit provides peace of mind. Here are some items that you should keep in your car:

- A portable jump starter and power source so you can start your own vehicle without needing the help of another car.

Continued on page 3



St. Paul Snow Emergencies

When St. Paul gets 3" or more of snow or an accumulation of 3" of snow over several days, you can expect the City to declare a Snow Emergency. Make sure you know the rules below, and -- if your car gets towed...where the impound lot is.

All streets are either Night Plow Routes or Day Plow Routes.

Night Plow Routes are plowed



from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the night a Snow Emergency is declared.

They're the busy streets -- marked with signs that say "NIGHT PLOW ROUTE" PLUS one side of north-south residential streets with signs that say "NIGHT PLOW ROUTE THIS SIDE OF STREET." Downtown streets are plowed at night.

Day Plow Routes have no plowing signs. They're plowed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and normally following night plowing. They're east-west residential streets PLUS one side of north-south residential streets - the side WITHOUT the plowing signs.

There are some exceptions to these rules, but they're all well

marked. Parking is banned until snow is plowed all the way to the curb.

Avoid a ticket and a tow! The City now tickets and tows cars before the plows begin. The fine for a "snow tag" is \$45. Towing can result in substantial towing and storage fees.

For recorded up-to-the-minute St. Paul snow plowing information 24 hours a day call 651-266-PLOW.

To sign up for direct e-mail notification of snow emergencies or to view diagrams that tell you where you can park, please visit <http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/publicworks/snowplow.html>

Minneapolis Winter Parking Basics

To help keep streets plowed, residents and visitors who use on-street parking in Minneapolis should pay attention to the weather and be familiar with these winter parking rules. Then stay tuned during the snow season (roughly November to April) so you know when such rules may be enforced. Those who don't follow Snow Emergency or other winter parking rules could receive a parking ticket and get their vehicle towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.

Winter parking rules to watch for:

- **Snow Emergencies.** After a heavy snowfall, the City may declare a Snow Emergency before 6 p.m. on any given day. This puts a sequence of parking rules into effect that span a three-day period

- **Temporary signs.** Streets and alleys are often plowed, sanded and salted without a Snow Emergency declaration. Temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted if necessary.

- **Winter Parking Restrictions.** When there is significant snowfall during the season, accumulating snow on city streets can make it difficult for emergency and public safety vehicles to navigate. If streets become too narrow, the City can declare Winter Parking Restrictions. When Winter Parking Restrictions are in effect, parking is prohibited on the EVEN side of non-Snow Emergency routes until the snow season official ends on April 1, or conditions warrant lifting the restrictions. **Important note:** Snow Emergency rules are slightly different if Winter Parking restrictions are in effect and a Snow Emergency must be declared. Check this site or visit local media outlets

which will be provided the proper parking procedures during winter parking restrictions.

Severe winter storm warning. When a major storm is predicted, Minneapolis may impose temporary parking restrictions IN ADVANCE of the storm. In these cases, parking may be prohibited on the EVEN side of non-Snow Emergency routes for up to 48 hours.

To access the city of Minneapolis Snow Emergency hotline call 612-348-SNOW. For complete information on winter parking info, snow plowing basics, snow emergency parking rules, or to sign up for e-mail alerts for snow emergencies please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/winter-parking-basics.asp#TopOfPage>

Fire Emergency Procedures

If you are in a building and the fire alarm sounds, are you prepared for evacuation? Here are some steps to take if you find yourself in this situation.

The most important thing is to remain calm. Walk, do not run, to the nearest stairway exit and proceed to ground level. **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS DURING A FIRE EMERGENCY.** If time permits, close doors and windows on your level. Even if the alarm stops, continue the evacuation and warn others who may attempt to enter the building. No one is to enter the building unless authorized by Public Safety or fire personnel. Upon evacuating the building, proceed to a safe distance away from the build-

ing. Leave walkways and driveways open for arriving emergency personnel. Do not return to the building until directed to do so by Public Safety or fire personnel.

Notify firefighters on the scene if you suspect someone may be trapped inside the building. Also, notify them of any disabled persons in the building and if possible their location in the building. Campus residents should be familiar with the “buddy system” established by Residence Life. In the event of an emergency, request assistance, if needed, in moving to an exit or safe area (usually a stairwell). Send a “buddy” to notify Public Safety, police or firefighters of the person’s location and status.

If you discover a fire, explosion, or smoke in a building, activate the fire alarm system where available. After sounding the alarm, call Public Safety at 651-(96)2-5555 and give the building name, floor, room number and the type of incident. Public Safety will respond and notify the local fire department.

**Public Safety
Emergency Line
Dial 5555**

Winter Car Care from Page 1

- A flashlight or spotlight and emergency flares to make sure you are clearly visible to other drivers in case you are stranded at night.
- A first aid kit.
- A tire inflator and sealer that will quickly and easily inflate and seal a flat tire so that you can drive home or to the repair shop.
- Bottled water and snacks, such as crackers or energy bars.
- Blankets
- A cellular phone to call for assistance if necessary, as well as a contact list of service stations and emergency numbers.
- An ice scraper and snow brush.
- An extra pair of gloves, a scarf and hat.
- Extra windshield washer de-icer fluid that can be used in cold weather driving.

Before hitting the road, take time to listen to weather and traffic reports. When the conditions are too hazardous, you should stay off the roads if possible. It is also a good idea to always keep at least a half tank of gas in vehicles during winter months – it could be your only source of heat if you are stranded.

Utility Failures

In the event of a utility failure (water, electric, heat) immediately call the Public Safety Department at 651-(96)2-5100. Be prepared to inform the dispatcher of the building name, floor, room number, and the nature of the problem.

St. Thomas does have emergency power. However, emergency power is not in every building and is typically limited in duration. In the event of an electrical power failure, Public Safety will immediately contact the Physical Plant or its duty officer.

If there is the smell of natural gas, don’t use any telephones, cell phones, light switches, or other electronic equipment. Leave the area immediately. If there are any electrical lines down, assume they are live and DO NOT touch them. When in a safe area, notify Public Safety at 651-(96)2-5555.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND PARKING SERVICES**

Office Locations

www.stthomas.edu/psps

Parking Services—New for Fall '06

2119 Grand Ave. (Finn St. & Grand Ave.)
Hours: Monday—Friday 8a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 651-(96)2-PARK

Public Safety - St. Paul Campus

1st floor of Morrison Hall
Hours: 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year
Phone: 651-(96)2-5100
Emergency Line: 651-(96)2-5555

Public Safety - Minneapolis Campus

2nd floor of Opus Hall
Hours: 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year
Phone: 651-(96)2-4100
Emergency Line: 651-(96)2-5555

Our Mission:

The Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the campus community and within the framework of the university's mission, is dedicated to creating and promoting a safe, secure and peaceful environment by applying policies and laws, delivering emergency services, performing requests for assistance, and providing on-going education.

The following are the Public Safety Department's guiding principles:

Respect: We will respect all people in all situations.

Integrity: We will maintain integrity in all that we do.

Impartial: We will be impartial in the delivery of services.

Information: We will provide clear, timely and accurate information.

Identity Fraud

What's on your Facebook? A commonly used social network known as Facebook is used by thousands of college students in the United States. But, how safe is it? There have been reports of identity theft as well as stalking and even sexual assaults associated with the website due to the types of information listed on it. Listings that include full names, addresses, dates of birth, high school locations, and cell phone numbers add to this dangerous mix.

Reports of identity theft continue to increase in the United States due to the advances in technology. There were ten million people in the United States that fell victim in 2003. Identity theft really is a case of identity fraud because in reality the only thing that someone can't steal from you is your personal identity.

The short answer is that identity theft is a crime. Identity theft and identity fraud are terms used to refer to all types of crime in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data

in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain.

Each individual must take precautions to protect themselves from identity theft.

Unlike your fingerprints, which are

10 million identity theft cases were reported in 2003. Victims spent an average of \$1800.00 and 105 hours to correct the damage.

unique to you, your personal data such as your social security number, your credit card numbers, bank accounts, phone numbers, and other valuable information can fall into the wrong hands, hands that can profit at your expense.

How can you minimize your risk?

While you can't entirely control whether you will become a victim, there are certain steps you can take as a precaution.

1. Review your credit report. An

amendment to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act requires each major nationwide consumer reporting company to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months.

2. Secure your passwords. Avoid using easily available information as your passwords, such as birth date, maiden name, social security number, etc.

3. Ask about information security procedures at your workplace, school, doctor's office and other institutions. Find out who has access to your personal information and how it is handled.

4. Treat your mail and trash carefully.

5. Don't carry your Social Security card on your person. Leave it in a secure place.

6. And finally, be safe on the internet and be sure that you are using secure websites when shopping or opening accounts.