



Winter Vehicle Preparedness Instructional Guide

Porter County Emergency Management Agency



What would you do if you were stuck in your car for hours, possibly days? In 2011, Chicago had more than 20 inches of snowfall leaving hundreds of motorists stranded in their vehicles overnight. Would you have the essentials? This isn't about preparing for the end of the world. It's more about having a plan for emergencies. Always make sure your vehicle is prepared for extreme, winter conditions as well as have a Go-Bag on hand with essential supplies.

Types of Common Emergencies:

- Stuck in traffic for hours due to road blocks, accidents or other situations
- Extreme weather, such as blizzards
- Break downs
- Getting lost
- Getting into an accident, or witnessing one

The Porter County Emergency Management Agency provides a Winter Go-Bag Vehicle Checklist, which can be used to prepare a Go-Bag for your vehicle. If possible, keep a Go-Bag in the driver's compartment of your vehicle so it is readily accessible. If you are unable to do so, one can be stored in an area of your trunk where it is accessible through the rear seat compartment. This eliminates the need to get out of the vehicle to obtain the bag.



Note: Keep your vehicle fueled above a half tank. On average, a vehicle burns approximately 1/4 gallon of gas for every 15 minutes at idle. Idling the vehicle for 15 minutes each hour may produce enough heat to keep you warm until help can arrive. Ensure your tail pipe is not blocked by snow/ice. It could cause deadly carbon monoxide to back up into the vehicle.