Safety Talk! Winter Driving Safety

Cold temperatures, snow, and ice can create hazardous driving conditions, leading to reduced visibility and slippery roads. Preparing ahead of time can help you stay safe. Here are some key tips:

- Vehicle Maintenance: Ensure your car is winter-ready by getting a tune-up, installing winter tires, topping up fluids, checking your windshield wipers, filling up on fuel, and inspecting the battery.
- Clear Visibility: Remove snow, ice, and fog from your headlights, taillights, side mirrors, and windows before driving.

Prepare in Advance: Vehicle maintenance, have a winter emergency kit wand warm clothing available.

Stay Focused and Drive Safely: Remain alert on the road, drive defensively, and avoid using cruise control in winter conditions.

- Snow Removal: Clear snow from your hood and roof to prevent it from blowing onto your windshield or clogging your vents, which could cause fogging.
- Safe Driving Practices: Turn on your headlights, drive slower, and adjust your speed according to road and weather conditions.
- **Minimize Distractions:** Stay focused on driving and avoid distractions. Use hands-free devices if necessary, or pull over to a safe spot if you need to use your phone.
- **Drive Cautiously:** Always be aware of your surroundings, slow down, and don't rush. Adjust your driving to match road and weather conditions.
- Braking with ABS: If your vehicle has Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS), avoid pumping the brakes.
- Adjust Travel Time: Slow down and allow extra time for your journey when road conditions are poor.
- Watch for Bridges and Overpasses: These areas can be especially slippery even when other roads are not.
- **Stopping Distance Comparison**: In winter, maintain a safe distance between you and other vehicles as the stopping distances increases significantly:
 - Twice the distance on slushy roads
 - Three times the distance on soft or loose snow
 - **Four times** the distance on packed snow
 - Up to 12 times the distance on ice-covered roads



By following these precautions, you can help ensure a safer winter driving experience.

For further information please contact:

Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health (OESH) at oesh@wrha.mb.ca

Training Record			
Presented by:		Site/ Facility:	
Topic: Winter Driving Safety		Department/ Unit:	
Attendees			
Insert Full Name		Sign off	Date
Upload the completed sign-off sheets in the TEAMs folder link here <u>Attendance Records of Safety Talks</u> for the review process			