

## Winter Driving: How to keep CAP members and resources SAFE

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Defensive winter driving is a driving technique that involves being aware of and prepared for potential hazards on the road and taking action to avoid or mitigate them. Winter driving can be challenging, especially if you are not used to it.

Some tips for defensive winter driving include:

- Slow down, allow extra time to reach your destination and increase your following distance from other vehicles. Road conditions can be slippery, visibility may be reduced due to snow, ice and you need more time to react to potential hazards.
- Make sure your vehicle is prepared for winter driving. Keep the gas tank at least half full to help prevent the fuel line from freezing. Check the fluid levels, tires, and wipers.
- Use your headlights and turn signals, your vehicle will be more visible to other drivers.
- Use lower gears when driving uphill. This will help to increase traction and prevent your wheels from spinning on the slippery surface.
- Be aware of black ice, which is a thin layer of transparent ice that can form on the roadway and is difficult to see. If you suspect that there may be black ice on the road, slow down and be prepared for a potential loss of traction.
- Use your brakes cautiously. Applying the brakes too hard can cause your wheels to lock up, which can cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Try to brake gently and early to help maintain control and avoid skidding.
- If you do get into a skid, try to stay calm and steer in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go. Avoid slamming on the brakes, as this can make the skid worse.
- Keep a winter emergency kit in your car. This should include warm clothing and blankets, a flashlight, a cell phone charger, and some non-perishable food.

By following these tips, you can be more assured of a safe and enjoyable winter driving experience.

Driving your Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) and a CAP van can be similar in some ways, but there are also some key differences that you should keep in mind. Here are a few:

- **Size and visibility:** Vans are typically larger and taller than cars, which can make it more difficult to maneuver and park. They also have larger blind spots, so it's important to be extra vigilant when changing lanes or backing up.
- **Handling:** Vans are heavier than cars, which can make them feel more sluggish to drive. They also have a higher center of gravity, which can make them more prone to rolling over in sharp turns or during emergency maneuvers.
- **Cargo space:** One of the main differences between a car and a van is the amount of cargo space. Vans usually have much more room for hauling equipment, supplies, or passengers, which can be a major advantage for certain types of driving.
- **Fuel efficiency:** Vans are generally less fuel efficient than cars, due to their larger size and weight. If you're planning to use your vehicle for long distance trips or for hauling heavy loads, you should be prepared for higher fuel costs.

Overall, driving a van can be more challenging than a car due to its size and handling characteristics. However, with a little extra care and attention, anyone can learn to drive a van safely and effectively.