



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
Phone: 231-995-6059 fax: 231-995-6139

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gregg Bird, Emergency Management Coordinator, 231-995-6059

This is the time of year when severe weather and lack of visibility cause a large number of motor vehicle accidents.

On behalf of all of the Grand Traverse County Public Safety / First Responder Community, County Road Commission, and wrecking crews, we'd like to ask that during periods of dark, dusk, or precipitation (rain or snow), that you make a conscious effort to turn your headlights on while driving. Please make this effort to allow others on the road to see you. Even if it appears you can see fine, please remember it is more about others, particularly public safety and first responders, being able to see you.

In addition to turning on your headlights, here's some important Winter Weather Safe Driving Tips:

- If you don't have to drive during adverse winter weather conditions, stay home.
- Before beginning a trip, check the current road conditions and weather forecast.
- Keep your car's windows, mirrors and lights clear of snow and ice.
- Buckle up.
- Allow plenty of time to make it to your destination.
- Be aware of sleet, freezing rain, and potentially icy areas.
- Brake early and slowly. Avoid slamming on the brakes.
- Keep a safe distance of at least five car lengths behind other vehicles and/or trucks plowing the road.
- When driving on ice and snow, **do not use cruise control** and **avoid abrupt steering maneuvers**.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season. This is good emergency preparedness and it keeps the fuel line from freezing.

For additional tips and updates on weather advisories, please check the Grand Traverse County Emergency Management Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GTCemergency>

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