

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT Tue Oct 29 2024

...Winter Weather Awareness Week Continues...

October 27 to November 2 is Winter Weather Awareness Week in New York and New England.

Winter is the most dangerous time of the year for drivers. Most winter weather related deaths occur in motor vehicle accidents.

If possible, avoid travel during winter storms. If you have the option to telework or work from home, snowy or icy days are good days to do so.

Clear your car of snow and ice before you drive. Make sure all windows, headlights and tail lights are clear.

When driving, if roads are snow covered or icy, slow down and drive carefully. Allow extra time to get to your destination. Keep extra distance between you and other vehicles. Turn on your headlights while driving in rain or snow.

Be alert for snow squalls. Snow squalls are brief intense snow showers accompanied by strong gusty winds. They often produce instantaneous snow accumulation and blinding visibility. Snow squalls are responsible for many vehicle pile ups on interstate highways.

Similar to summertime thunderstorms, snow squalls often happen on mostly fair days. In a matter of minutes, a pleasant day with sunny skies can change to whiteout conditions.

Snow squall warnings are issued for small areas likely to be impacted by the storm. When a snow squall warning is issued, delay travel or safely exit the highway. If you get stuck on the road during a snow squall, reduce your speed, turn on your headlights, and don't slam on your brakes!

Check your car's tires, brakes, battery, lights, windshield wipers, windshield fluid, and antifreeze now, before winter sets in.

Consider keeping a winter storm survival kit in your car which includes a blanket, first aid kit, shovel, a sack of sand or cat litter, booster cables, tow strap, ice scraper and brush and some high energy non-perishable food.

If you get stuck, while waiting for help, run the car's motor and heater just enough to keep from becoming unreasonably cold. Make sure to open a window slightly, and clear snow from the car's tailpipe. This will help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning from the exhaust.

Your Albany National Weather Service forecast office is available online and on social media. You can reach us at weather.gov/Albany, on Facebook at NWSAlbany and tweet along on X @nwsalbany.

\$\$

NWS Albany