

From your District Educator,

I am going out on a limb here but I think it is quite possible that most of us have put away our motorcycles for the season. So, I thought I would do an article about winter driving on 4 wheels. We all have had plenty of experience in our lifetimes with driving on ice and snow covered roads in very cold temperatures. But, I find making checklists helpful to make sure I don't forget something obvious. Not that forgetting obvious things happens to me (cough, cough).

So, here is a quick list of winter driving tips. Most of this is really about planning ahead.

1. When it really bad, stay home.
2. Make sure your vehicle is in good condition.
3. Check your tire pressure. (I had to fill up mine this morning after a drop in temperature.)
4. Keep your tank at least half full all the time.
5. Pack extra cold-weather gear and supplies in case you get stranded. Pack a shovel, blankets and gloves.
6. Don't use cruise control while driving in slippery conditions.
7. Increase your following distance.
8. Check the weather conditions before leaving.
9. Make sure your phone is well charged and have a source of backup power for it.
10. If you are going on a longer trip let someone else know what route you are taking and when you are planning on getting to your destination.

Sure, there are a lot of other suggestions and this list could get to be pages long. But, many of the suggestions out there are pretty obvious to all of us.

Until next month, stay warm, stay healthy, stay safe and stay happy.

Greg Hayes