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**Larry S. Helms**  
 & Associates  
 INSURANCE SERVICES

**704.893.2793**  
**www.LarryHelms.com**

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## Winter Car Care and Driving Tips



Doing a basic preventive vehicle check can save time, money and aggravation this Winter. Below are a few things you should do to prep your cars for Winter's cold and unpredictable weather.



### Drive Safely this Winter.

Catch up on any routine maintenance your vehicle needs. Don't depend solely on the warning lights, get your vehicle checked out. At the least, change the oil, check the antifreeze and the tires.

Cold temperatures are hard on batteries. Make sure you know the age and condition of your battery.

Make sure your cooling system is in good working order.

## Driving in the Dark

Check your headlights. Make sure they are clean and aimed correctly.

Keep internal car lights lower - dim the lights on your dash and keep other electronics aimed away from you.

Scan for animal retinas. Animals on the side of the road will have "eye-shine" when your headlights hit them.

With oncoming headlights, focus on something else instead of staring at the oncoming headlights.

Make sure your windshield is clean. Smears and scratches show up more at night.

Clean your exterior mirrors.

Fog lights are useful even on clear nights. The light is low and spread out.

Try not to drive when you're overly tired.

Never drive under the influence of any alcohol or drugs.

As with any other driving tips - do NOT drive with a cell phone in your hand. Texting, surfing, looking, checking email - ALL of them are dangerous distractions.

Have you flushed and replaced your antifreeze in the last couple of years?

Make sure your wipers are in good condition and working well. Wipers should be replaced at least once a year.

How old are your tires? Can you do the penny test on the tread? Is the tire pressure correct?

Check your tires, add air, check the tread. Remember to also check the spare.



Image Source: TireAmerica .com

Check your headlights. With shorter days and possible bad weather, your lights may be especially important.

Make sure all the lights work and they are aimed correctly.

Check your Brakes! And, learn how to brake on ice. Do you have front or rear wheel drive, anti-lock brakes, traction control? Get that owner's manual out.

Make sure you have an emergency kit. A few things to have: flashlight and batteries, lighter/candles, flare, first aid supplies, blanket, jumper cables, tire gauge and foam sealant, gloves, water, snacks, etc.

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## Do you have questions about your insurance?

Do you have the insurance you need? Have you had any life changes that might affect your insurance coverage?

**Call us today! We'll look at what you have and answer your questions.**

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