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**Larry S. Helms**  
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INSURANCE SERVICES

## 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.

# Car Care for Winter Driving

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.



- Catch up on any routine maintenance your vehicle needs. Don't depend solely on the warning lights, get your vehicle checked out.
- Make sure you know the age and condition of your battery. Cold temperatures are hard on batteries.
- Make sure your cooling system is in good working order. 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.
- 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 owners manual out.
- Cranking your vehicle to let it warm up. If your car is in a garage or closed space, think about raising the door a foot or so to allow the exhaust to flow out instead of accumulating inside with you.
- 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 guage and foam sealant, gloves, water, snacks, etc.