

Osage Beach Police Department

WINTER WEATHER CAR KIT

UPGRADE THE ESSENTIALS

Having an emergency car kit is crucial for handling unexpected situations on the road, such as flat tires, dead batteries or accidents. Essential items that should be in every vehicle include a tool kit, flashlight with extra batteries, cell phone charger, flares, jumper cables and a first aid kit. Additionally, we suggest adding items specific to winter weather conditions for added safety.



Winter tools

Tools like a windshield scraper and brush plus a foldable shovel come in handy to remove ice and snow.



Absorbent for traction

Another essential is something to provide tire traction on ice. While cat litter, sand and shingles can be used in a pinch, the best option is safety absorbent, which you can find at home improvement stores.



Fix-a-Flat & portable air compressor

A can of Fix-a-Flat or a small, portable air compressor can fill a flat or low spare tire and save the cost of a tow. Fix-a-Flat must be warm to work, so stash it in the cab.



Candle-powered heater

To avoid running the engine and wasting fuel, consider packing supplies for a candle-powered heater. All you need is a metal can, emergency candles and a lighter or matches. Put the candle in the can and light it - you'll be surprised at the heat it generates.



Cold weather clothing

Pack an extra jacket, hat, gloves or scarf in case of emergency. Add a blanket, too. It can be an old comforter that you don't mind getting dirty. Huddle together for warmth.



Snacks and water

No matter the time of year, it's always a good idea to pack extra water and snacks like protein bars, trail mix, and other energy boosters in case you're stuck for several hours.



Distress flag

A fluorescent distress flag is a signal to passing emergency crews that you need help. Place the flag on the vehicle antenna or hang it off a window.

IF A BLIZZARD TRAPS YOU IN A CAR...

Pull off the highway, turn on hazard lights and hang a distress flag. Stay in your vehicle unless there's a visible shelter nearby. Do NOT risk getting lost in the middle of a storm. Only run the engine and heater for 10 minutes each hour to conserve fuel. Open an upwind window slightly and clear the exhaust pipe to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Take turns sleeping with one person awake. Only leave the vehicle once the storm has passed.

City of Osage Beach Police Department

Emergency: 911 ❄️ Non-emergency: (573) 302-2010