

Winter safety tips – on the road

Tips for staying mobile during the winter on the roads

Hi, my name is Christina Liassides, and I'm Head of Highways Operations for Brighton & Hove City council. Welcome to our winter driving video.

It can be very difficult driving in icy conditions. Public safety is very important to us. Here are a few simple tips that will help you stay safe, if you need to go out and about driving.

If you need to drive for your journey, first check whether it's really necessary. If it is make sure that you check the weather conditions and forecast before setting off. You can never be too prepared when setting off on a journey in severe weather.

Here's a few things that you can have to hand:

A de-icer and scraper, which you should use before you set off. Make sure you have warm clothes, and possibly even a warm blanket, some food, and a hot drink in a thermos flask. You can also take a torch, batteries, a first aid kit, a reflective warning sign, jump leads and a shovel.

Why not have these items ready and keep them in your car?

It's always a good idea to bring a mobile phone, with some useful numbers, and a full battery.

Be sure to clear the outside of your car including the snow on the roof, before setting off. This stops it falling off during your journey, and becoming a danger to you, or to other people.

Keep in mind that we can't grit every road in the city. It can also take a while for the salt and grit solution to work into the snow or the ice and the roads may still be slippery.

Please take care, and drive carefully at all times.

- When driving, remember it can take up to ten times longer to stop in snow and ice.
- Use second gear when pulling away to avoid wheel spin.
- Make gentle manoeuvres all the time to stay in control.
- Always stay calm, and take your time.
- Try and leave a lot of distance between you and the car in front.
- When driving downhill, use engine brake, by using lower gears.

- If you need to brake, do this really gently. If you start to skid, take your foot off the brake, and gently brake again.

Essential services for vulnerable people, such as meals or medicine, home care workers or district nurses can be really difficult to maintain in severe weather with normal vehicles. We're always looking for 4x4 volunteers who can help. If you can, please email us at icanhelp@brighton-hove.gov.uk

We have a new fleet of gritting vehicles, all of which are 4x4, which make them much more useful in severe weather. Our main aim is to keep main routes passable and treated. In total we treat about 156 miles around the city when weather conditions require it. These are A roads, most B roads and other roads of local importance such as bus routes.

We can't grit everywhere, so please remember to take care when you're driving and to check what the roads are like. You can look for further updates on our website, facebook and twitter.

Thank you, and have a safe journey.

- www.brighton-hove.gov.uk

- www.facebook.com/BrightonandHoveCityCouncil

- www.twitter.com/BrightonHoveCC

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