Mountain and Winter Driving

Tips and Tricks
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Get ready for some twists and turns!
Today’s Talking Points

- Know Before You Go
- Type of Vehicle
- Driving Conditions & Hazards
- Driving Rules
- Survival Gear
Know Before You Go...
But Expect the Unexpected

- Check Weather and Road Conditions prior to leaving
- Mountain Weather Forecast
  - [https://www.mountain-forecast.com/](https://www.mountain-forecast.com/)
- Mount Graham Columbine Weather Station
  - [https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=32.690243035492266&lon=-109.87358093261719&site=twc&unit=0&lg=en&FcstType=text#.YypZhHbMKUd]
- ADOT
  - [https://az511.gov/](https://az511.gov/)
What kind of vehicle should I drive up the mountain in the winter?

- **Four-wheel drive**
  - Make sure it is equipped with snow chains and survival gear
  - Be familiar with your vehicle and how it operates. Do you know how to shift into 4WD? What are the limits of the vehicle?
- High clearance
- Rental vehicles: the operator is responsible to make sure it is equipped with all of the winter survival gear that is required
How About Summer?

- Four-Wheel Drive/AWD
- High Clearance
- Equipped with Survival Gear

My GPS says there’s a campground around here, somewhere...
Driving Hazards

- Snow/Blizzard Conditions
- Ice/Black Ice
- Fog
- Rain
- Washouts
- Rock and Mudslides
- Wildlife
Navigating the Conditions

- Washboards
  - Slow down especially when approaching a curve to maintain control
  - Faster is not better
- Limited visibility caused by dust, fog, blizzard and rainy conditions
  - Slow down and give yourself more distance if you are following another vehicle
  - It may be necessary to pull over and wait it out
    - Get as far off road as possible
    - Turn off lights
- Obstacles in road such as traffic, potholes, rocks, branches and downed trees
  - Look ahead
- Narrow road not wide enough for 2 vehicles, ie Mount Graham access road
  - Stop
  - The vehicle going uphill needs to back down to a spot wide enough for the other vehicle to pass
Navigating Curves

• Slow down and brake before entering curves and traveling downhill
  • Braking while in them reduces the ability to maintain vehicle control
• Don’t drive downhill any faster than you would drive uphill
• Select lower gear while going downhill
• Watch for wildlife, other vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians
• Be aware of soft shoulders; they can pull a vehicle into the ditch or worse, cause a rollover
Rules For Driving In The Snow

• Chain up properly.

• A plowed road may look wider than normal, but beware: the shoulders will be soft snow that will not support the weight of the vehicle

• Traveling after dark is highly discouraged. If it is necessary, please use the buddy system

• Make sure your two-way radios are working and stay in contact with someone

• Take your survival gear

• Slow down!
What Should Each Vehicle Carry?

- List of all emergency telephone and radio contact numbers
- Fire extinguisher
- Pocket lighter or butane mini-torch
- Small shovel
- First Aid Kit
- Emergency Blanket per passenger
- Snow Chains
- Ice Scraper
- Bag of sand
- Tool kit: pliers, duct and electrical tape, screwdrivers, plastic warning sign, jumper cables, 20ft tow strap
What Should I Bring?

- **Personal items to have with you:**
  - Appropriate clothing!
    - Winter gloves (handy for putting on snow chains too)
    - Heavy coat
    - Hat
    - Boots
    - Extra supply of water and food
    - NO flops, shorts or sleeveless shirts!
Safe Mountain Driving Tips

- Slow down. Speed will get you in trouble
- Make sure your fuel tank is full
- Tires are properly inflated
- Windshield wipers are in good condition and check wiper fluid
Why Is This Important?

- Due to Past Incidents and Preventing New Ones
  - EXAMPLES
  - Bumblebee encounter on Mount Graham
  - Rollover on Mount Lemmon
  - General public vehicle sideswiping a U of A vehicle
What Should I Do If I Am In An Accident?

• If there are injuries, call 911

• Risk Management and Safety, Fleet Safety Policy, Number RM-002, sec 3.5 states: All accidents involving a university vehicle or associated with a university activity (regardless of vehicle ownership) must be reported to RM&S and to the driver's supervisor or university management official.


• Remember: the driver has obligations to stop, render aid when it’s necessary, make notifications, exchange info or leave info. Leaving the scene could be a criminal offense.
Take aways

• Slow Down
• Look Ahead
• Be Prepared for Changing Conditions

You Never Know What Might Be Lurking Around the Next Bend
Questions????