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## WINTER DRIVING

**Have your car(s) winterized before the winter storm season.** Keeping your car(s) in good condition will decrease your chance of being stranded in cold weather. Have a mechanic check your battery, antifreeze, wipers and windshield washer fluid, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashing hazard lights, exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster, and oil level. If necessary, replace existing oil with winter grade oil. Install good winter tires. Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require vehicles to be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

If you have a cell phone or two-way radio available for your use, keep the battery charged and keep it with you whenever traveling in winter weather. If you should become stranded, you will be able to call for help, advising rescuers of your location.

Keep a windshield scraper and small broom in your car for ice and snow removal. Put together a separate disaster supply kit for the trunk of each car used by members of your household. You should also bring a thermos of warm broth if you are on the road during a winter storm. If you should become stranded during a winter storm, these items will make you more comfortable until the storm passes. The kit should include the following:

- Several blankets or sleeping bags.

- Rain gear and extra sets of dry clothing, mittens, socks, and a wool cap.
- Newspaper for insulation.
- Plastic bags for sanitation.
- Canned fruit, nuts, and high-energy munchies. Cans of broth or soup.
- Non-electric can opener if necessary.
- Several bottles of water. Eating snow will lower your body temperature. If necessary, melt it first.
- A small shovel, a pocketknife, and small tools, such as pliers, a wrench, and screwdriver.
- A small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels, a set of tire chains or traction mats.
- Jumper cables.
- A first aid kit and necessary medications.
- A flashlight with extra batteries.
- A candle in a metal can or other fireproof container. While candles are generally not recommended in disaster situations, having one in your car can be a source of heat and light if you are stranded.
- Matches.
- Cards, games, and puzzles.
- A brightly colored cloth to tie to the antenna (preferably red).

**Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.** Plan long trips carefully. Traveling during winter weather can be hazardous. Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions. Plan to travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person.

**Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive.** If your car gets stuck during your trip, help can be sent along your predetermined route.

**Be aware of sleet, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and dense fog, which can make driving very hazardous.** The leading cause of death during winter storms is from automobile or other transportation accidents. During winter weather conditions, multiple vehicle accidents are more likely

to occur, resulting in injury and death. Avoid driving during sleet, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and dense fog – these serious conditions are often underestimated.

#### **IF YOU DO GET STUCK:**

**Stay with your vehicle.** Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. Disorientation and confusion come very quickly in blowing snow. Avoid traveling during winter storms. If you must travel and do become stranded, it is better to stay in the vehicle and wait for help.

**Display a trouble sign to indicate you need help.** Hang a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) on the radio antenna and raise the hood (after snow stops falling).

**Occasionally run engine to keep warm.** Carbon monoxide can build up inside a standing vehicle while the engine is running, even if the exhaust pipe is clear. Experience has shown that running the heater for ten minutes every hour is enough to keep occupants warm and will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and conserve fuel. Turn on the engine for about ten minutes each hour (or five minutes every half hour). Use the heater while the engine is running. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and slightly open a downwind window for ventilation.

**Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen. Do minor exercises to keep up circulation.** Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long.

**If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping.** One of the first signs of hypothermia is sleepiness. If you are not awakened periodically to increase body temperature and circulation, you can freeze to death. Huddle together for warmth.

**Use newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation.** Layering items will help trap more body heat.

**Keep a window that is away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.** Severe cold can cause numbness, making you unaware of possible danger.

Keep fingers and toes moving for circulation, huddle together, and drink warm broth to reduce risk of further injury.

**Drink fluids to avoid dehydration.** Bulky winter clothing can cause you to sweat, but cold dry air will help the sweat evaporate, making you unaware of possible dehydration. When individuals are dehydrated, they are more susceptible to the effects of cold and heart attacks. Melt snow before using it for drinking water. Eating snow lowers your body temperature, increasing risk from hypothermia.

**Avoid overexertion.** Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

To find out current road conditions throughout the state go to Michigan State Police Winter Travel Advisory at:

<http://www.woodtv.com/Global/link.asp?L=18376>

### **From the Program Coordinator's Desk by Gary Zulinski**

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and the New Year is a joyous one for all.

**The first Michigan Citizen Corps grants** have been awarded and the following counties and communities will be receiving funding for Citizen Corps Councils and Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Congratulations to:

- Detroit
- Genesee County
- Ingham County
- Kalamazoo (City of)
- Marquette County
- Oakland County
- Otsego County
- Pontiac
- Rochester Hills
- St. Clair County

The above communities will share \$356,000 in federal funds that were awarded to the State of Michigan. 2004 funding guidelines will be available

by the end of January on the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) web site. To access the information, visit [www.michigan.gov/mcsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc) and scroll down to and click on the Michigan Citizen Corps article. The following funding will be available:

- \$402,573 for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs. Proposals must be received by the MCSC by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2004. (No Intent to Apply Form is required.)
- \$782,200 for Citizen Corps Councils and its affiliate programs: Community Emergency Response Training, Volunteers in Police Service, Medical Reserve Corps, and Neighborhood Watch. An Intent to Apply form is due at the MCSC by Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and the proposals must be received by the MCSC by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2004.

**Threat Advisory** was raised to **Orange** before the holidays and is still at that level. Many people are confused or do not really understand what it means. The Department of Homeland Security determines the threat level based on the amount of intelligence they receive by monitoring communications of known terrorist or groups associated with terrorists. As the communications increase the threat level is raised according and especially around certain holidays or events when people are most vulnerable to possible attacks. It is everyone's responsibility to be vigil and to report anything that appears suspicious to their local authorities.

**The Michigan Citizen Corps Council** meeting (the meeting of the statewide council) took place on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Oakland Community College. The weather didn't cooperate and it was a typical rainy day in Michigan. We were very pleased to announce the grant awards and that we had a 38% increase in the number of Citizen Corps Councils since August. Two additional councils have come on board, Isabella County and Gerrish Township, bringing the total of local councils to 20.

These meetings are open to the general public. During the general comments from the public, the question was raised as to why there has not been public announcements about the Citizen Corps. Chairman Sheriff Michael Bouchard compared the situation to a friend of his who opened a business

before he was really ready and the business struggled. "We wanted to make sure that our infrastructure was in place before we put out the open for business sign!" So now that the Michigan Citizen Corps is more established, we will begin distributing public service announcements to let the general public know of our activities and encourage their involvement.

We are looking forward to 2004 and the growth of Citizen Corps and its programs in Michigan. There are three community colleges that have hosted and will continue to host CERT Train-the-Trainer classes. There are also several other community colleges that have expressed interest in doing the same. Five counties have received Medical Reserve Corps grants. The interest for Citizen Corps and CERT is spreading not only among communities in Michigan but to businesses, schools and private organizations as well. If only 20 percent of the population in Michigan had CERT training, think about how much safer our state would be. By making our communities and state safer we create a safer nation and world.

## STATE REVIEWING SECURITY WITH TERROR ALERT UPGRADE

State security officials have held a number of meetings on stepping up protection at critical Michigan sites following the national upgrade in the terrorist warning.

Governor Jennifer Granholm participated in a national conference telephone call following the announcement that the threat level of a possible terrorist attack had been raised to Orange, the second highest threat level.

Governor Granholm and State Police Colonel Tadarial Sturdivant also held a series of telephone meetings with personnel in the state's homeland security office, according to Lt. Charles Loader.

State officials have been communicating with ten different levels of security officials in local governments, Mr. Loader said, including police, fire, and emergency medical personnel.

There have been no decisions to cancel police vacations or call personnel back from leaves, Mr. Loader said. But extra patrols will be located at areas considered critical, he said, including border areas.

By Monday afternoon, there were reports that traffic was taking as much as one hour to cross the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit/Windsor tunnel in Detroit as travelers moved from Canada to the US.

Mr. Loader said state officials did not tell residents to change their holiday plans, but to be extra vigilant, and if they have any suspicions about anything that seems out of place, they should contact the police.

## DHS LAUNCHES US-VISIT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, DC, JANUARY 5, 2004 - The US Department of Homeland Security today launched US-VISIT, a new program to enhance the nation's security while facilitating legitimate travel and trade through our borders. New entry procedures took effect today for most foreign visitors with non-immigrant visas at 115 airports and cruise ship terminals at 14 seaports. The system utilizes biometrics, which are physical characteristics unique to each individual, to verify identity. Biometric technologies are the basis of an extensive array of highly secure identification and personal verification solutions.

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in our government's commitment to securing our nation while upholding America's ideals about freedom of travel and the spirit of welcoming foreigner visitors," said Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, while greeting passengers at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. "US-VISIT is an important new element in the global war against terrorism and will serve as a catalyst in the growing international use of biometrics to expedite processing of travelers. We want to show the world that we can keep our borders open and our nation secure."

US-VISIT requires that most foreign visitors traveling to the U.S. on a visa have their two index fingers scanned and a digital photograph taken to verify their identity at the port of entry. The US-VISIT program will enhance the security of U.S. citizens and visitors by verifying the identity of visitors with visas. At the

same time, it facilitates legitimate travel and trade by leveraging technology and the evolving use of biometrics to expedite processing at our borders.

"US-VISIT represents the greatest improvement in border inspection in more than three decades, and is a shining example of what we can achieve when government works together," said Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary of Border and Transportation Security of the Department of Homeland Security. "US-VISIT is actually a continuum of security measures that begins overseas, at the U.S. consular offices issuing visas, where biometrics will be collected to determine if the applicant is on a database of known or suspected criminals or terrorists. When the visitor gets to our border, we use the same biometrics - these digital "fingerscans" - to verify that the person at our port is the same person who received the visa or to see if we have learned new information about any involvement in terrorism or crime. This type of identity verification helps our Customs and Border Protection Officers make better admissibility decisions and enhances the overall integrity of our immigration system."

The Department of Homeland Security has been testing the new entry procedures since November 17 at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The test showed that the new procedures add an average of 15 seconds to the entry process at primary inspection for foreign nationals traveling with visas. More than 20,000 passengers from Central and South America, Europe, Asia and South Africa participated in the voluntary test, which confirmed the program's ability to verify identity without adding significant time to the process.

The Department of Homeland Security today also began a pilot test of exit procedures for departing passengers holding visas. A departure confirmation program using automated kiosks is being tested at Baltimore-Washington International Airport and at selected Miami Seaport cruise line terminals. Foreign visitors exiting the United States from those locations will be required to confirm their departure at the kiosk. US-VISIT officials will evaluate the tests and consider alternatives to the automated kiosks for departure confirmation throughout 2004.

Congress has mandated that an automated entry-exit program be implemented at the 50 busiest land ports of entry by December 31, 2004, and at all land

ports by December 31, 2005. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in November to engage the private sector to help the US-VISIT program develop the optimum solutions for entry and exit processing. The contract will be awarded in May 2004.

For more information: <http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit>

## VIPS REGIONAL SYMPOSIA ANNOUNCED

The VIPS Program has designed a series of one-day symposia to introduce the VIPS Program and law enforcement volunteer resources and efforts to agencies interested in establishing or expanding their volunteer program. The focus will be on the planning, implementation, development and sustenance of a volunteer program.

**Charlotte, North Carolina March 3, 2004**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana May 18, 2004**  
**Providence, Rhode Island May 25, 2004**  
**Dallas, Texas June 8, 2004**  
**Portland, Oregon June 15, 2004**

Attendance is limited to representatives from law enforcement agencies and priority will be given to agencies who are developing a law enforcement volunteer program.

For registration information, please visit <http://www.policevolunteers.org/resources/>.

## VIPS OP-ED TEMPLATE

Interested in sharing information on your law enforcement volunteer program with your community? Visit the following web site for a sample op-ed article:  
[http://www.policevolunteers.org/resources/vips\\_oped\\_template.doc](http://www.policevolunteers.org/resources/vips_oped_template.doc)

This downloadable template is designed to help agencies promote their program through their local media. The op-ed template provides an overview of how a registered VIPS program fits into the larger White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, while providing ample space for your law enforcement executive to tout your agency's volunteer opportunities.

Please let us know if there is an op-ed or article about your program in the local media by contacting us at [info@policevolunteers.org](mailto:info@policevolunteers.org).

## FEMA On-Line CERT Course To help get and stay trained

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 17, 2003 - The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is unveiling today an on-line, independent study course that can serve as either an introduction to those joining Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) or as a refresher to current volunteer team members.

"While nothing can replace the in-person training local jurisdictions offer to CERT volunteers, this independent course augments their education and serves to reinforce the knowledge they've gained," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. "This new independent study course underscores the importance that FEMA places on CERT and its importance to communities across the nation."

CERT members work with a community's emergency management officials to provide assistance in a disaster by helping victims, organizing spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site and supporting emergency responders.

Specialists at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute developed the course, which is part of the institute's extensive independent study program. The course, Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams, IS 317, has six modules with topics that include an introduction to CERT, fire safety, hazardous material and terrorist incidents, disaster medical operations, and search and rescue. It takes between six and eight hours to complete the course; those successfully finishing it receive a certification of completion. The course is located at: [www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is317.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is317.asp).

The course can be taken by anyone interested in CERT, but only those who are actual CERT volunteers can take the in-person training FEMA offers.

## Free Internet access for Law Enforcement

The [Criminal Justice Institute \(CJI\)](#) and the [Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#) are pleased to provide Internet access at no cost to rural law enforcement agencies. Not only does this project provide Internet access, it also provides an electronic information resource center and promotes information sharing among law enforcement agencies by use of e-mail. A fully operational help desk provides technical assistance to agencies on-line and to agencies applying for grant funding through the Department of Justice. The project began in 1995 and has been continued since that time through funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Internet access is primarily available to rural law enforcement agencies and must be used for agency business purposes only. The service is available to other agencies, on a limited basis, for the purpose of applying on-line for grant funding through the Department of Justice. A rural law enforcement agency is defined as:

- A. Police Department: Any city serving a population of 25,000 or less.
- B. Sheriff's Office: Any county serving a population of 50,000 or less.
- C. Tribal Police Departments: No population restrictions apply.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Hardware: Computer with modem.  
Software: Windows operating system, (Windows 95 or later version).
- 2. Must have access to a dedicated phone line, (can be shared with a fax line).

**REQUEST PROCEDURES:** Requests for Internet access should be made by mail, fax, or e-mail should include agency name, address, and contact information. Make requests to Mr. Jimmy Nobles or Ms. Mindy Hunter at:

Criminal Justice Institute  
7723 Col. Glenn Rd.  
Little Rock, AR 72204 – 7503  
Phone: 1-888-411-1713  
Fax: (501) 570-0100  
Email: [jwnobles@cji.net](mailto:jwnobles@cji.net) or [mlhunter@cji.net](mailto:mlhunter@cji.net)

Upon approval, the requesting sheriff, chief of police, or department head will be required to sign an Internet access agreement form and provide agency contact information to the Criminal Justice Institute for administrative purposes.

For more information about the Michigan Citizen Corps, contact the program coordinator, Gary Zulinski at the Michigan Community Service Commission at (517) 241-3867 or [zulinskig@michigan.gov](mailto:zulinskig@michigan.gov).