

Vehicle Survival Kit: Got Yours?

Do you know what you need? How long have those old granola bars been in there? Do you take it out in the summer to make room for the lake gear? Don't put it off; take action today to become more prepared!



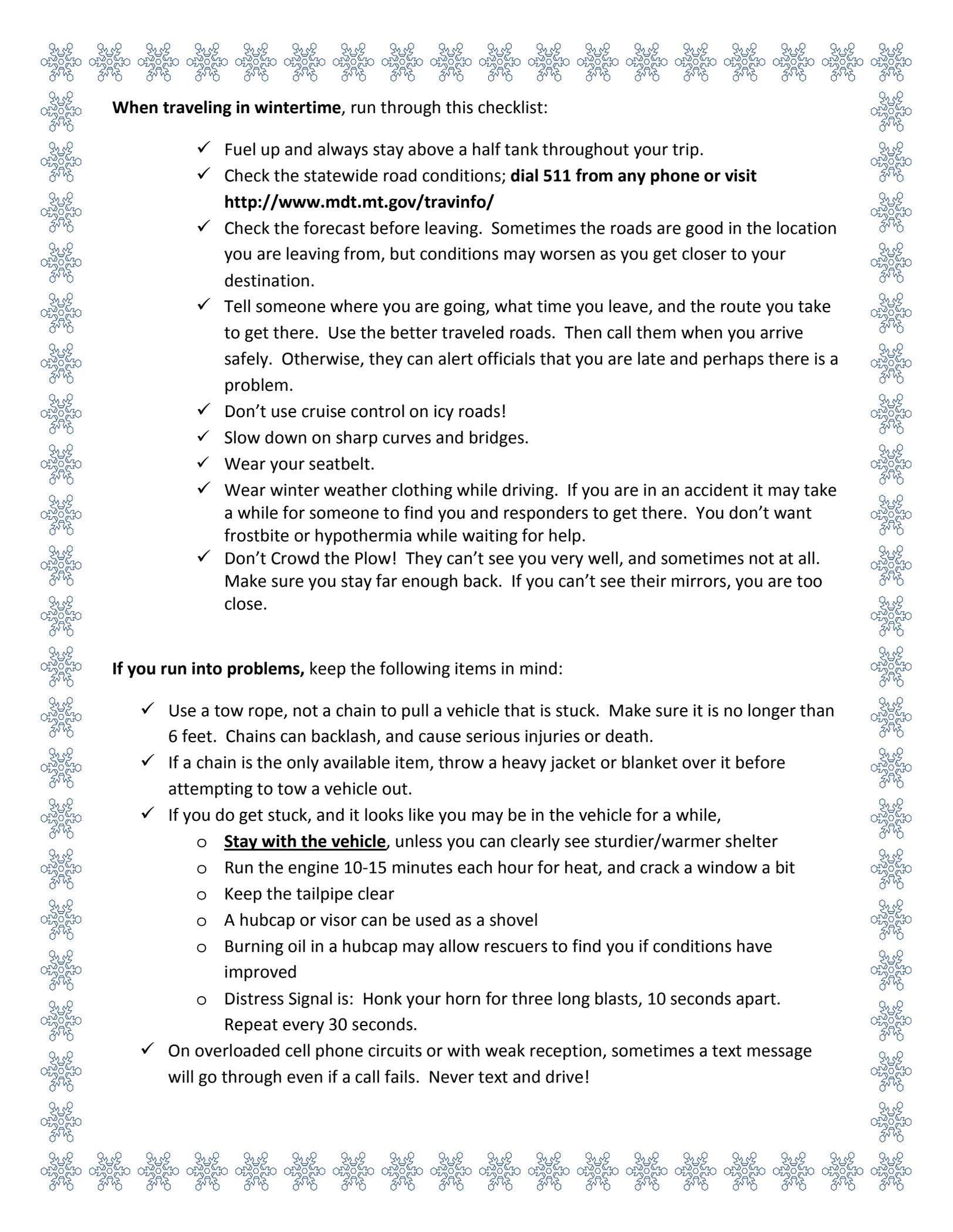
Minimum Items to have in a Vehicle Survival Kit:

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| Cell Phone/Charger | Water bottles |
| First-Aid Kit/Mylar safety blanket | High Calorie/Non-Perishable Foods |
| Extra Clothing (i.e. gloves, fleece top) | Moist Towelettes/Paper Towels/Hygiene kit |
| Ice Scrapper | Flares/Whistle to Signal for Help |
| Spare Tire | Tool Kit/Multi-tool |

Additional Items to consider taking:

- Blankets/Sleeping Bags
- Flashlight/Extra Batteries
- Small Camp Stove/Fuel
- Tow Rope (chains are dangerous)
- Battery booster cables or battery booster
- Compass/Maps
- Small Metal Can with waterproof matches to melt snow
- Extra fuel can
- Small garbage bags/duct tape/electrical tap/zip ties
- Small bag of cat litter or sand
- NOAA Emergency Weather Radio (hand crank type)
- Fix a Flat solution or small compressor for flat tires





When traveling in wintertime, run through this checklist:

- ✓ Fuel up and always stay above a half tank throughout your trip.
- ✓ Check the statewide road conditions; **dial 511 from any phone or visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/>**
- ✓ Check the forecast before leaving. Sometimes the roads are good in the location you are leaving from, but conditions may worsen as you get closer to your destination.
- ✓ Tell someone where you are going, what time you leave, and the route you take to get there. Use the better traveled roads. Then call them when you arrive safely. Otherwise, they can alert officials that you are late and perhaps there is a problem.
- ✓ Don't use cruise control on icy roads!
- ✓ Slow down on sharp curves and bridges.
- ✓ Wear your seatbelt.
- ✓ Wear winter weather clothing while driving. If you are in an accident it may take a while for someone to find you and responders to get there. You don't want frostbite or hypothermia while waiting for help.
- ✓ Don't Crowd the Plow! They can't see you very well, and sometimes not at all. Make sure you stay far enough back. If you can't see their mirrors, you are too close.

If you run into problems, keep the following items in mind:

- ✓ Use a tow rope, not a chain to pull a vehicle that is stuck. Make sure it is no longer than 6 feet. Chains can backlash, and cause serious injuries or death.
- ✓ If a chain is the only available item, throw a heavy jacket or blanket over it before attempting to tow a vehicle out.
- ✓ If you do get stuck, and it looks like you may be in the vehicle for a while,
 - **Stay with the vehicle**, unless you can clearly see sturdier/warmer shelter
 - Run the engine 10-15 minutes each hour for heat, and crack a window a bit
 - Keep the tailpipe clear
 - A hubcap or visor can be used as a shovel
 - Burning oil in a hubcap may allow rescuers to find you if conditions have improved
 - Distress Signal is: Honk your horn for three long blasts, 10 seconds apart. Repeat every 30 seconds.
- ✓ On overloaded cell phone circuits or with weak reception, sometimes a text message will go through even if a call fails. Never text and drive!