

# 20/20 A Year of Preparation

Volume 11

November 2020

## Monthly Tip #1

### \*WINTER CHECKUP FOR YOUR VEHICLE(S)

Here are some things to have checked:

Make sure the battery, brakes, lights, fuses, cooling/heating systems, exhaust/electrical systems, belts and hoses are in top shape.

Check your tire tread depth and consider either getting new All-Weather tires OR getting Winter tires. (see <https://driving.ca/auto-news/news/whats-the-difference-between-all-weather-and-all-season-tires> AND the Monthly Tip #2 on next page for more information).

Top up your windshield washer fluid and make sure it's the right kind for winter weather.

Make sure your wipers are in good condition, and that your washer system sprays the washer fluid out correctly.

Check your antifreeze fluid levels in your vehicle.

Find the plugin cord for your block heater (is it tucked up inside the engine compartment) and make sure it is accessible when you need it!

Also, check if the cord or plugin prongs are damaged and need to be replaced.

## Vehicle Emergency Kits / Home Storage.

**Elder Marion G. Romney** taught about helping others:

“Without self-reliance one cannot exercise these innate desires to serve. How can we give if there is nothing there? Food for the hungry cannot come from empty shelves. Money to assist the needy cannot come from an empty purse. Support and understanding cannot come from the emotionally starved. Teaching cannot come from the unlearned. And most important of all, spiritual guidance cannot come from the spiritually weak.” (Marion G. Romney, “The Celestial Nature of Self-Reliance,” Ensign, Nov. 1982, 93).

### VEHICLE EMERGENCY KITS

Next on our Vehicle Emergency Kits are some basic items that can range from “very useful” to “life-saving”.

#### Basic Items

\*Candle in deep can & matches/lighter.

\*First aid kit.

\*Flashlight (battery-powered/crank/solar).

\*Small shovel (folding/collapsible take less room).

\*Windshield scraper & snowbrush.

\*Warning light(s)/reflectors/road flares.

\*Seatbelt cutter/glass

breaker tool.

\*Hand sanitizer/wet wipes; small garbage bags.

\*Whistle & duct tape.

\*Pocket/utility knife.

\*Work gloves.

\*Basic tools (pliers, screwdriver, crescent wrench, etc)

\*List of contact numbers.

### HOME STORAGE

#### Personal Hygiene

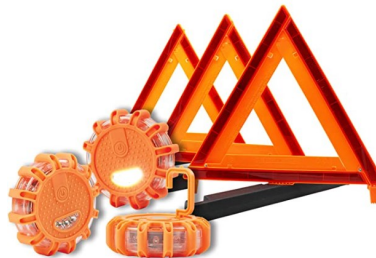
Let's try not to offend everyone around you in the emergency—so don't forget personal hygiene items, such as toothpaste, soap, shavers, feminine products, comb/brush, etc.

## Cool Items - Emergency Lights/Flares

Having emergency lights/flares in your vehicle can be very important in our dark winters.

<https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B07VXBBV8P/?>

co-liid=I24EKPT50B0762&colid=25QZ4CZTF8EPL&psc=1&ref\_=lv\_ov\_lig\_dp\_it



Here are some other options:

<https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B016MBHC56/?>  
co-liid=I2HQW122ZXGU3T&colid=25QZ4CZTF8EPL&psc=1&ref\_=lv\_ov\_lig\_dp\_it

<https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B086DVD83S/?>  
co-liid=I39OE0WAKVKO2W&colid=25QZ4CZTF8EPL&psc=1&ref\_=lv\_ov\_lig\_dp\_it

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## Monthly Tip #2

### **\*CHECKING TIRE TREAD DEPTH.**

**Anything 5/32" (4 mm) or less should be replaced.**

You can check the tread depth on your tires in a few ways. You can use an actual [tire tread depth gauge](#) (see Cool Items on this page). You can also use a Quarter or Toonie.

Toonie - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_xjxY04cZkk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xjxY04cZkk)

Quarter - A classic way to measure winter tire wear is to use a quarter. Insert a Canadian quarter in one of the grooves with the caribou facing down. If you see the tip of its nose, it means the **tread depth** no longer meets 6/32", so the **tire** probably won't last all winter or 10,000 km.

## Monthly To Do

### **\*FURNACE FILTER .**

Now that the winter weather is here to stay, it's a good idea to check your furnace filter and see if it needs to be changed.

A good rule of thumb is to change 1-2 inch filters every three months, 4 inch filters every six months and 5 inch filters every 12 months. Signs your air filter needs changed: The filter is visibly dirty. Certainly if you can't see the material of the filter itself, it should be replaced.

## Winter Driving Tips

### Consider Putting Winter Tires on Your Vehicle.

#### Why Winter Tires?

Winter tires outperform other types of tires during all winter conditions once the weather drops below 7 degrees Celsius. At that point, the rubber in all-season tires begins to harden resulting in less elasticity and traction on the road.

In contrast, the grooves in winter tires are about 30 per cent deeper than all-season tires, so they grip the road more effectively.

### Here are some Winter Driving School tips from AMA:

#### Conquer Snowy Hills

Going uphill? Using a low-

er gear, start accelerating at the base to build enough momentum to get to the top. Downhill, also use a lower gear - rather than brakes - to slow down. When you do brake, press gently to maintain a slow steady pace.

#### Handle Black Ice

Black ice occurs at or below zero degrees. It's caused by moisture freezing on the road surface. Drivers often can't see it, but if asphalt looks shiny and black instead of grey-white, be cautious and reduce your speed without braking.

#### Recover From a Skid

If front tires lose traction, don't steer into the skid! Take your foot off the gas and steer in the direction you want to go. If back

tires lose grip, slamming the brake or jerking the wheel can make you fish-tail. Instead, look and steer in the direction you want the car to go.

#### Navigate a Whiteout

Slow down, use low beams, and turn on front and rear defrosters. Whiteouts typically pass quickly, but you may want to pull over at a safe location, away from traffic. If you continue driving, keep headlights on but avoid high beams - they reflect more light off snowflakes, further reducing visibility. Drive slowly and watch your speed: if you can't see other vehicles or landmarks, it's tough to gauge how fast you're going. If road markings are covered, rely on signs as guides.

## Cool Items - Tire Tread Depth Gauge

Tire tread depth gauge.

You can pick this item up at most automotive stores, such as Canadian Tire, for just a few dollars:

[https://www.canadiantire.ca/en/pdp/victor-tire-tread-depth-gauge-0095501p.html?\\_br\\_psugg\\_q=tire+tread+dept+h+gauge](https://www.canadiantire.ca/en/pdp/victor-tire-tread-depth-gauge-0095501p.html?_br_psugg_q=tire+tread+dept+h+gauge)



Here is a website showing how to correctly use the gauge, along with a video on how to use a Nickel to measure the tread depth.

<https://www.canadiantire.ca/en/howto/project.html/project/Auto/How-to-check-your-tire-depthtread.html>