

Parking Alert – Kansas City Winter Weather Emergency Declarations

Whenever snow has accumulated or there is a possibility that snow will accumulate to such a depth that snow removal operations will be required, the city manager may declare a parking emergency. Until such an emergency is terminated, no vehicles shall be parked on any streets designated as snow routes by appropriate signs. All vehicles parked on such streets must be removed within two hours after declaration of an emergency or be considered in violation.

Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving - Before winter approaches, everyone should focus on preparation. Winterize your car early to avoid the long lines at service stations. Proper care and maintenance of your vehicle may avoid delays and costly repairs later. Most importantly, being prepared could save your life. The following items should be checked annually:

- Ignition system
- Cooling system
- Exhaust system
- Fuel system
- Heater and defroster
- Battery
- Lights
- Tires
- Brakes
- Wipers

Survival kits - Even with proper vehicle maintenance, there is always the chance of becoming stranded. Prepare a survival kit and keep it in your car at all times. Each kit should include:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Windshield scraper
- Paper towels
- Extra clothes
- Matches and candles
- Blankets
- Booster cables
- Sand or salt
- Shovel
- Non-perishable food and water

If stranded, don't leave the car unless you see a building close by where you know you can take shelter. Stay on the road if at all possible. Use the candles to keep warm. If you must use the vehicle heater, start the engine for short periods of time only and leave the window slightly open while the motor is running so carbon monoxide can escape.

Travel smart and drive defensively. To ensure that you know how to correctly make use of safety features on your vehicle, such as anti-lock braking systems and various drivetrain systems and settings, please refer to your vehicle owner's manual for instructions for the use of these systems.

Plan your trip and always let someone know your travel plans, route and estimated time of arrival. If possible, don't drive alone. When traveling long distances, contact the highway patrol for road conditions. Use the radio often and keep it tuned to a station that has updates on weather and road conditions. Remember, preparation and smart traveling is the key to a safe and pleasant trip.