



Ready PA Monthly - December 2022



Arrive Home Safe this Holiday Season

Article contributed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

As we approach the holiday season, many people are hitting the road to see family and friends. There are a lot of ways you can reduce the chances of becoming a crash statistic and ensure the holidays are filled with (mostly) warm memories.

Take a look at the suggestions below and be sure to check out the 10 Must for Winter-Driving tip sheet.

Buckle up. Wearing your seatbelt improves your chances of surviving a crash by up to 60 percent. Seatbelts should be worn any time you get behind the wheel – even if it's for short trip. Did you know that three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of home? Likewise, make sure each and every passenger in your vehicle is properly restrained, including children in the appropriate safety seat.

Chill out. There is a unique kind of stress that goes along with the holidays. Daylight hours are at a premium. Weather is unpredictable. Holiday traffic is a pain. Then we fret over gift buying, and pressure to be everywhere all at once. Stress builds up and can sometimes manifest itself on our highways. We become territorial in our wheeled fortresses and easily take offense at other drivers. One perceived act of rudeness can quickly escalate into full-blown road rage. Instigating or escalating aggression on the road is not worth it. Take a deep breath. Clear your mind of whatever is bugging you. Remember the other motorists you encounter are dealing with their own issues, too. A little bit of kindness and common courtesy can go a long way..
Click the link below to read more.....

[READ MORE](#)

Preparing for a Winter Storm at Home

Winter is upon us! In Pennsylvania, we know snow, sleet, ice, extreme cold, and winds can wreak havoc on us at any given point. So, what kind of challenges can winter hazards create, and how do we prepare for them?



Winter weather can create hazards at home, such as:

- Loss of electricity and other utilities
- Loss of heating
- Supply shortages

Preparing for these hazards includes:

- Keeping electronics charged, like cell phone
- Ensuring a good supply of extra batteries for items like weather radios and flashlight
- Making sure your generator is serviced and ready to use safely
- Make sure any heating fuel tanks are full
- Ready any emergency heat sources for safe use (fireplaces, wood stoves, etc.
- Ensuring smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are in working order
- Having extra supplies on hand, including baby items, medicine, non-perishable food, water, and pet supplies
- Fueling or charging up your vehicle as an alternate source to charge electronics

- Making sure pipes are protected from extreme cold
- Sealing doors and windows to prevent warm air from escaping

Also, it's a good time to brush up on your emergency plan. Are your contacts up to date? Do you have somewhere else to go before the storm to shelter if you don't have the means to do so in your home? Think about the actions you would need to take if winter weather impacts your day-to-day activities.

For more winter weather preparedness tips, visit the NWS Winter Weather Preparedness page [here](#). To read more about what you need to know about winter storms, visit [here](#).

Holiday Fire Safety

Each year, our family and friends join us around our tables to enjoy home-cooked meals during the holidays. Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

What you should know about home cooking safety:

- **Be alert!** When cooking at home, do not let children home from school or teleworking tasks distract you from monitoring your cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains — away from your stovetop.
- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.

If you have a cooking fire:

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.



Holiday Cooking Fire Safety

- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.**
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.**
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer.**
- Keep anything that can catch fire (oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains) away from your stovetop.**

Tips from the National Fire Protection Association

- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turning off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Turkey fryers can be dangerous, even if you follow all the directions. Be as safe as possible as you prepare your meal with these resources:

Turkey Fryer Safety Fact Sheet ([PDF](#))

Recipe for Preventing Turkey Fryer Fires ([JPG](#))

Following these helpful tips can be a great start so that your family can #BeFireSafe during the holidays. More information is available on the PA Office of the State Fire Commissioner website and [Facebook page](#).

National Influenza Vaccination Week

December 5-9, 2022

The holiday season is here. That means more time to spend with your children, family and friends. However, as holiday cheer spreads, so can flu, with potentially serious complications. Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to stay protected against the flu.



National Influenza Vaccination Week is your reminder that there's still time to get a flu vaccine. Protect yourself from serious flu illness. Get a flu vaccine and fight the flu.

Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health's page [here](#) to learn more about the flu.

[DECEMBER TIP SHEET: THE 10 MUSTS FOR WINTER DRIVING](#)

[DECEMBER SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT](#)

[If you received this newsletter as a forward, subscribe here.](#)



Learn more at pema.pa.gov and ready.pa.gov.
Follow PEMA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).