COMPLETE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST SERIES

# 72-Hour Winter Vehicle Emergency Equipment Inventory & Readiness Assessment

A printable Preparedness Planning Tool for evaluating winter travel risks, passenger needs, independent warmth, usable supplies and backup capabilities.

| Household / vehicle record | Details |
|---|---|
| Owner / household | |
| Vehicle / registration reference | |
| Assessment date | |
| Next review date | |

**How to use this tool:** Complete each inventory using actual equipment and measured performance. Mark unknown or untested capabilities as gaps. Use the three-day logs during a safe exercise or actual delay. Correct critical weaknesses before travel.

**Safety first:** 72 hours is a planning horizon, not a guarantee of safety. Postpone dangerous travel. Seek help early when warmth, medical care, water or shelter is threatened.

## Preparedness review notes

# 01 Vehicle and passenger information

Record the usual maximum occupancy and individual needs. Keep sensitive medical information private.

| Passenger / pet | Clothing / warmth | Medical / other needs |
|---|---|---|
| Driver | | |
| Passenger 2 | | |
| Passenger 3 | | |
| Passenger 4 | | |
| Additional / pet | | |
| | | |

**Vehicle type, contact details and assistance requirements**

# 02 Winter travel risk assessment

Review the actual route before departure. Postpone travel if official guidance or conditions make it unsafe.

| Check / requirement | Ready / gap / N/A | Evidence / action |
|---|---|---|
| Forecast / lowest expected temperature | | |
| Road closures and official advisories | | |
| Mountain passes / remote stretches | | |
| Cellular coverage / alternatives | | |
| Safe stops / fuel or charging locations | | |
| Route and arrival shared with contact | | |
| Decision: travel, delay or cancel | | |

| Pre-departure verification | Ready / gap | Action / notes |
|---|---|---|
| Liquid drinking water and ready-to-eat food packed | | |
| Phones, power banks and cables checked | | |
| Medication, fuel / charge and travel contact confirmed | | |

### Priority gaps and next actions

# 03 Winter vehicle maintenance

Use manufacturer instructions and professional servicing where required.

| Check / requirement | Ready / gap / N/A | Evidence / action |
|---|---|---|
| Winter tires, tread and cold pressure | | |
| Battery / low-voltage system | | |
| Antifreeze and winter washer fluid | | |
| Wipers, lights and defrosting | | |
| Brakes and heating system | | |
| Spare tire or repair kit, jack | | |
| Exhaust condition / EV charging readiness | | |

## Priority gaps and next actions

# 04 Fuel and vehicle energy reserves

Estimate using actual vehicle data. Do not treat calculated idling hours as a safe operating schedule.

| Measure | Estimate / actual | Reserve / action |
|---|---|---|
| Fuel or state of charge at departure | | |
| Minimum reserve for onward travel | | |
| Fuel use (L/h) or stationary load (kW) | | |
| Planned total hours (illustrative) | | |
| Estimated energy use | | |
| Available reserve after use | | |

**Example:** 1 L/h x 4 total hours/day x 3 days = 12 L. EV: 1.5 kW x 6 h = 9 kWh. Actual demand varies.

**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 05 Emergency clothing inventory

Record enough correctly sized clothing for every passenger; keep spare layers dry.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Base layers | | | |
| Insulating layers | | | |
| Weather-resistant outerwear | | | |
| Winter boots | | | |
| Warm socks / spare dry clothing | | | |
| Gloves / mittens | | | |
| Hats / neck protection | | | |
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## Priority gaps and next actions

# 06 Warmth and sleeping equipment

Plan for loss of vehicle heat. Select insulation appropriate for expected conditions; emergency foil blankets are supplementary.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Winter sleeping bags | | | |
| Insulated blankets | | | |
| Insulating pads | | | |
| Emergency bivvies | | | |
| Supplementary reflective blankets | | | |
| Dry storage bags | | | |
| Individual warmth arrangements | | | |

| Independent warmth and moisture protection | Ready / gap | Action / notes |
|---|---|---|
| Insulation beneath each passenger; sleeping bag fit checked | | |
| Chemical warmers: suitable users and safe-use instructions | | |
| Dry spare layers; wet gear separated; ventilation planned | | |

### Priority gaps and next actions

# 07 Emergency drinking water

Use accessible liquid water, not total frozen inventory. Two litres/person/day is an illustrative drinking baseline; add other needs.

| Supply / container | Volume (L) | Accessible in cold? | Action |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Example:** 4 people x 2 L/day x 3 days = 24 L drinking water. Add pet, hygiene and medical needs. Never use a stove inside the vehicle.

**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 08 Emergency food inventory

Choose ready-to-eat foods suitable for freezing conditions and individual dietary needs. Rotate according to storage instructions.

| Food / serving | Quantity | Total kcal | Condition / rotation |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Example:** 4 adults x 2,000 kcal/day x 3 days = 24,000 kcal; adjust for actual needs.

**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 09 Lighting and batteries

Test useful brightness and runtime in expected conditions. Protect battery terminals and use compatible replacements.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Handheld flashlights | | | |
| Headlamps | | | |
| LED lanterns | | | |
| Replacement batteries | | | |
| Rechargeable battery packs | | | |
| Charging cables | | | |
| Independent backup light | | | |
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## Priority gaps and next actions

# 10 Communication and charging

Test actual devices and cables. Verify satellite service and offline operation before travel.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cellphones | | | |
| Vehicle charging adapters | | | |
| Power banks | | | |
| Compatible cables | | | |
| Satellite messaging device | | | |
| Weather / information radio | | | |
| Emergency contacts / route plan | | | |
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### Priority gaps and next actions

# 11 Vehicle recovery equipment

Use only compatible equipment and approved recovery points. Avoid unsafe roadside recovery; seek qualified help.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Snow shovel | | | |
| Traction boards | | | |
| Approved chains / traction devices | | | |
| Traction material | | | |
| Approved recovery equipment | | | |
| Gloves / high visibility clothing | | | |
| Manufacturer instructions | | | |
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**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 12 Tools and repair supplies

Do not attempt repairs in unsafe traffic or unstable locations. Never work beneath a vehicle supported only by a jack.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tire inflator / pressure gauge | | | |
| Compatible jump starter | | | |
| Jumper cables | | | |
| Jack / wheel tools | | | |
| Spare tire / approved repair kit | | | |
| Ice scraper / snow brush | | | |
| Basic hand tools | | | |
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**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 13 First aid and medical supplies

Record medication storage limits and individual requirements. Seek immediate assistance for suspected hypothermia.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| First aid kit / dressings | | | |
| Disposable gloves | | | |
| Personal medications | | | |
| Medical-device power supplies | | | |
| Medical information / contacts | | | |
| First aid training | | | |
| Cold injury response plan | | | |
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## Priority gaps and next actions

# 14 Sanitation and hygiene

Keep waste separate from food and water. Avoid unnecessary exposure to traffic or severe weather.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Toilet paper / tissues | | | |
| Waste bags / absorbent supplies | | | |
| Portable toileting arrangement | | | |
| Hand hygiene supplies | | | |
| Disposable gloves | | | |
| Menstrual / personal care supplies | | | |
| Child or adult care supplies | | | |
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## Priority gaps and next actions

# 15 Signaling and navigation

Deploy warning devices only when safe. Follow official road advisories rather than unverified navigation shortcuts.

| Equipment / supply | Qty / fit | Condition / test | Storage / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| High visibility clothing | | | |
| Reflective warning triangles | | | |
| Battery warning lights | | | |
| Bright distress marker | | | |
| Offline maps | | | |
| Printed road maps | | | |
| Location / route references | | | |
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### Priority gaps and next actions

# 16 Individual passenger and pet needs

Identify needs beyond the general inventory; seek help promptly if vulnerable occupants cannot remain safe.

| Person / pet | Specific requirement | Supply / assistance |
|---|---|---|
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## Priority gaps and next actions

# 17 Carbon monoxide and winter safety

Never use camping stoves, charcoal or unapproved combustion heaters inside a vehicle. If CO is suspected, stop the source, move to fresh air safely and call emergency services.

| Check / requirement | Ready / gap / N/A | Evidence / action |
|---|---|---|
| Exhaust clear before engine operation | | |
| Recheck drifting snow when safe | | |
| No sleeping with combustion engine running | | |
| Ventilation understood; not a substitute for exhaust clearance | | |
| Independent warmth available | | |
| CO symptoms and emergency response understood | | |
| Safe shelter / evacuation decision understood | | |

| Additional engine and cold-weather checks | Ready / gap | Action / notes |
|---|---|---|
| Intermittent engine use only if safe; window slightly open | | |
| Hybrid automatic engine start understood; no sleeping with engine on | | |
| Hypothermia / frostbite signs and urgent help plan understood | | |

### Priority gaps and next actions

# 18 72-hour resource calculator

Calculate actual demand and compare with usable supply. Do not count the same battery reserve twice.

| Resource | 72-hour demand | Usable supply | Gap / action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drinking water (L) | | | |
| Food (kcal) | | | |
| Lighting (Wh) | | | |
| Phones / radio (Wh) | | | |
| Medical equipment (Wh) | | | |
| Fuel (L) / EV energy (kWh) | | | |

**Worked example:** Two 3 W lights x 4 h/day x 3 days = 72 Wh. Four phone charges x 15 Wh = 60 Wh. Total 132 Wh; at 80% delivery efficiency, 132 / 0.8 = 165 Wh stored energy. Heating and other loads are separate.

**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 19 Day 1 - emergency resource tracking

Record remaining resources and changes at each check. Request help immediately if anyone cannot stay warm or safe; do not wait for the next scheduled check.

| Resource / status | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|---|---|---|---|
| Liquid water remaining (L) | | | |
| Food remaining / meals | | | |
| Fuel / vehicle charge | | | |
| Backup battery energy | | | |
| Warmth / dry clothing | | | |
| Passenger health / symptoms | | | |
| Location / contact update | | | |

**Urgent concerns, assistance requested and next actions**

# 20 Day 2 - emergency resource tracking

Record remaining resources and changes at each check. Request help immediately if anyone cannot stay warm or safe; do not wait for the next scheduled check.

| Resource / status | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|---|---|---|---|
| Liquid water remaining (L) | | | |
| Food remaining / meals | | | |
| Fuel / vehicle charge | | | |
| Backup battery energy | | | |
| Warmth / dry clothing | | | |
| Passenger health / symptoms | | | |
| Location / contact update | | | |

**Urgent concerns, assistance requested and next actions**

# 21 Day 3 - emergency resource tracking

Record remaining resources and changes at each check. Request help immediately if anyone cannot stay warm or safe; do not wait for the next scheduled check.

| Resource / status | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|---|---|---|---|
| Liquid water remaining (L) | | | |
| Food remaining / meals | | | |
| Fuel / vehicle charge | | | |
| Backup battery energy | | | |
| Warmth / dry clothing | | | |
| Passenger health / symptoms | | | |
| Location / contact update | | | |

**Urgent concerns, assistance requested and next actions**

# 22 Equipment testing and readiness

Mark Ready only if verified, adequate and accessible. Partial means a known limitation; Not ready means absent, unsafe or untested. Any critical gap in warmth, water, medical needs or emergency contact planning prevents an overall Ready rating.

| Check / requirement | Ready / gap / N/A | Evidence / action |
|---|---|---|
| Independent warmth for each passenger | | |
| Accessible water and ready-to-eat food | | |
| Communication / location plan | | |
| Lighting and backup charging | | |
| Vehicle safety and CO precautions | | |
| Equipment secured and accessible | | |
| Overall readiness status | | |

### Priority gaps and next actions

# 23 Deficiencies and corrective actions

Resolve safety-critical gaps before travel. Assign a responsible person and verify completion through inspection or testing.

| Gap / risk | Corrective action | Owner / due date | Verified |
|---|---|---|---|
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**Priority gaps and next actions**

# 24 Seasonal inspection and review

Review before winter, extended trips, after using supplies, and whenever vehicle or passenger needs change.

| Inspection / task | Date | Result / follow-up |
|---|---|---|
| Pre-winter inspection | | |
| Water / food rotation | | |
| Charge and test batteries | | |
| Clothing / insulation inspection | | |
| Medical / sanitation supplies | | |
| Route / contact review | | |

**Safety references:** National Weather Service: weather.gov/safety/winter-during. CDC: cdc.gov/winter-weather/prevention/index.html and cdc.gov/winter-weather/prevention/preventing-frostbite.html. Follow local emergency instructions.

**Priority gaps and next actions**