ROAD READY

Driving in winter weather can be dangerous and surprising. Make sure you're ready for unexpected repairs or delays by keeping a well-stocked emergency kit with the following items in your vehicle. Even in warmer months, the kit can be useful if you're stranded.

Working **flashlight** (preferably with a bright beam and waterproof) and extra batteries. Also include road flares in your kit.

Gallon jug of **distilled water, non-perishable food** such as jerky and unsalted nuts and **hard candy**. Don't include items with chocolate, which can melt. Be sure to include items for any family members with dietary needs.

Tool kit, jumper cables and flares. Make sure the kit has tools to perform simple jobs such as tightening battery cables. Even if you don't know what to do, a Good Samaritan will need tools to work with.

Hat, gloves, warm clothes and a blanket are crucial for added warmth. Also include a brightly colored cloth, which can be tied to the antenna to draw attention to your location for assistance.

Bag of non-clumping **cat litter, salt or sand** for added traction if your tires become stuck.

Collapsible **shovel, ice scraper and snow brush**. The shovel can dig your vehicle out of the snow while the scraper and brush keep windows clear.

Properly inflated **spare tire**, wheel wrench and jack designed for your vehicle. Tow and tire chains are also recommended.

Wooden stick **matches** in a waterproof container to create heat, not as a light source.

Compass or other navigational device so you can direct assistance to your location if you become stranded.

First aid kit with supplies to treat anything from small cuts or burns to more severe injuries. Stock the kit with bandages, alcohol pads, medical tape, gauze, antibiotic ointment and basic medicines such as ibuprofen and antacids.

IF YOU BECOME STRANDED

- **DO NOT** leave your vehicle. Only leave if you know exactly where you're located, how far away you are from assistance and if you're certain leaving your vehicle will improve your situation.
- Light two flares to attract attention, placing one a safe distance from each end of your vehicle.
- Use gloves and blankets to keep your extremities warm. These items should be part of your emergency kit (above). You can also include hand warmers, available at most sporting goods stores. When the warmer is crushed or twisted a chemical reaction occurs to create heat.
- Hard candy may seem like an unusual item for your emergency kit, but eating it will keep your mouth moist.
- Ensure your vehicle's exhaust pipe is not blocked and run the engine and heater for 10-minute intervals each hour, depending on how much gas is in your tank.
- Keep at least one window slightly open. Heavy snow and ice can seal a vehicle shut.

your energy partner
OPPD
Omaha Public Power District