

THE MAINE LIAISON



Edition: JP:05

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

Winter 2025

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! We'll begin with this question: To train in ARIDE or not to train in ARIDE? For the hundreds of front-line Law Enforcement Officers in Maine, we hope your answer to attending Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training is YES! Upon graduation from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Law Enforcement Program, we all worked hard to attain our field sobriety testing proficiencies in Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, Walk and Turn, and One Leg Stand. For many of us, that is where our operating under the influence of intoxicants training ended, and our OUI cases began.

ARIDE training was introduced in 2009 under the direction of NHTSA and IACP. The goal of this nationwide 2-day training curriculum is to train Officers to observe, identify, and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or a combination of both. The program, through such training seeks to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents, serious injury and fatal crashes.

As Officers have seen anecdotally, risky driving behavior experienced a sharp increase as the grips of COVID-19 pandemic began to loosen. In sup-

(Continued on page 2)

Your LEL Contacts

James Willis
James.K.Willis@Maine.Gov 207-460-6040

Patrick Hood
Patrick.Hood@Maine.Gov 207-975-0423

Traffic Fatalities through: December 31, 2024

177

*comparable prior years through December 31 of respective year

*2023	*2022
135	182
*2021	*2020
153	163

In this Issue:

- ARIDE training information.
- Q1—Q4 traffic fatality stats.
- Chemist Corner.
- TSRP Chat.
- Bureau of HS updates and awards.
- Updates from the DRE training unit.
- Community resource page.
- SADD Updates.
- Winter driving tips.
- Traffic safety marking information link.
- Lifesavers 2025 conference dates.

(Continued from page 1)

port of those anecdotal experiences, those of us who track the statistics of serious injury and fatal crashes could point to the real lives lost to support what Law Enforcement was seeing on our roadways. Increased cases of criminal speeding along with greater alcohol and poly-drug use (to include Cannabis) incidents among our motoring public continued to rise.

ARIDE training across the State of Maine is on the rise according to E. Don Finnegan, Coordinator of the OUI program at MCJA. His office just completed their fourth ARIDE training for 2024 accounting for 70 Law Enforcement Officers who learned advanced roadside detection skills for drug and alcohol impaired driving cases. ARIDE training costs in Maine are 100% funded by our Bureau of Highway Safety.

At the conclusion of ARIDE training, LEO's will have an additional three field sobriety tests to deploy and combine with their hours of training on the seven different drug categories and the clues that the human body displays for each of those categories. Adding this advanced training to the battery of SFST's we all learned at the Academy will better prepare our front-line Law Enforcement to detect drug and alcohol impaired drivers.

While not required to become a DRE, it is strongly recommended Officers attending the DRE program have ARIDE training. Although the 16-hours of ARIDE training takes you to the next level of drug impairment detection, it's not a substitute to the DRE program which is a substantially longer period of expert training. For Officers, ARIDE will lead to the DRE program and that progression is needed to help keep our roadways safe!

As always, if Jim or I can assist in obtaining ARIDE or any other Highway Safety related training for your Agency, please reach out anytime.

v/R,
Jim and Pat



Need access to free NHTSA social media images and content for all NHTSA Campaigns? Try the newly updated Traffic Safety Marketing web page line [here](#).

Traffic Safety Marketing

Powered by NHTSA

Communication Resources

For States, Partner Organizations, and Highway Safety Professionals

I want communication material for

Safety Topic

View

RIGHT NOW 50 MILLION
VEHICLES ON THE ROAD HAVE OPEN SAFETY RECALLS

Is yours one of them?



CheckToProtect.org for vehicle recalls



MaineDOT

Traffic Camera

LINK



DIRIGO SAFETY, LLC
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCATES

Access our full training schedule by clicking this [LINK](#)

Fundamentals of OUI Investigation:

March 10, 2025 8:00am to 4:00pm
Portland Police Department
109 Middle St
Portland ME 04101

Price: Free. This class is sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety.

OUI: After the arrest training:

March 11, 2025 8:00am to 4:00pm
Portland Police Department
109 Middle St
Portland ME 04101

Price: Free. This class is sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety.

Artificial Intelligence Basics: Report Writing, Social Media, and More:

April 29, 2025 8:00am to 4:00pm
Dirigo Safety LLC
95 Main St, third floor
Auburn ME 04210

Price: \$179
In-person or Zoom

Green Lab

May 1, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm
Presque Isle PD
43 North St
Presque Isle, ME

Price: FREE FOR MAINE LEO AND PROSECUTORS. Sponsored by the Office of Cannabis Policy.
Limited seats available



Updates From

Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Unit



Over the course of 2024, Maine has trained over 120 officers in standardized field sobriety testing and 70 officers in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement. Keeping our officers trained on the most current methods of detecting alcohol and drug impairment is vital in the fight against impaired driving.

Maine's Drug Recognition Experts have conducted nearly 400 enforcement evaluations to date, with several of these being referred by ARIDE trained officers. With DREs retiring or being promoted to other assignments, Maine will be running another DRE class in 2025, with 17 students enrolled.

DRE training is one of the most challenging classes there is - it's not for everyone. Candidates must be willing to put in a lot of work. The class scheduled for February 2025, started homework assignments a month ago.

(Continued on page 11)

Chemist Corner

MAINE CDC-DHHS:

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING LABORATORY:

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY SECTION: TOXICOLOGY

Changes are coming:

In early 2025 Maine's Health & Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) will be transitioning to an appointment system for Evidence Intake:



Maine HETL Forensic Chemistry Evidence Unit Appointments



SELECT A SERVICE

Blood/Urine Kit Submission



Single Kit

[Read more](#)

15 minutes

Evidence Submission



Seized Drugs 1-5 items; Blood/Urine 2-5 kits [Read more](#)

30 minutes

Evidence Submission



Seized Drugs 6-10 items; Blood/Urine 6-10 ... [Read more](#)

1 hour

Evidence Submission



Seized Drugs 10+ items; Blood/Urine 10+ k... [Read more](#)

1 hour 30 minutes

For more information please reach out to:
Evidence.HETLForensics@maine.gov

UPDATES
FROM

The Bureau of Highway Safety *Coordinators*

Director Lauren Stewart would like to recognize the following members of her team who have earned a certificate as a Highway Traffic Safety Professional in 2024: Nathan McLaughlin, Nicholas Brown, Erica Davis, and Jaime Pelotte! Congratulations to all of you!

Highway Traffic Safety Professional Certificate



The Transportation Safety Institute administers the Highway Traffic Safety Professional Certificate (HTSP) for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This program is available to NHTSA personnel and their partners – State Highway Safety Offices (SHSO), grant subrecipients, and law enforcement personnel. This program recognizes those safety professionals who have successfully completed the required coursework and core competencies to earn the HTSP certificate.

The HTSP consists of Six Core courses: Foundations of Highway Safety, Milestones of Highway Safety Program Development, NHTSA Highway Safety Grants Management, Data Driven Highway Safety Planning, Management Review (RPM only), and Effective Speaking and Presenting. In addition, there are six specializations that safety professionals may complete: Occupant Protection, Impaired Driving, Speed/Aggressive Driving, Pedestrian/Bicycle Program Management, Vulnerable Road Users, and Law Enforcement Liaison.

Updated Intoxilyzer site MOU's

If your Agency is an Intoxilyzer site, BHS will be sending out and updated MOU soon. The updated form will incorporate both 8000 and 9000 specific requirements. Please reach out to Jeremy Morin with any questions. Jeremy.Morin@Maine.Gov.

New Pedestrian Safety PSA's

For federal fiscal year 2024, the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety partnered with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine to create new PSAs. Each PSA has a different focus such as drivers giving space to cy-

(Continued on page 11)

Forensic Phlebotomy

The FP class that began in November at KVCC has 10 LEO's that have completed the classroom portion of the program and are moving into clinical rotation.

A FP refresher has been scheduled for March 19, 2025 at KVCC. The registration is open already, please enroll sooner rather than later (this is for FP's that have already been trained and need to maintain certification). Link for registration is on our website and is here <https://www.kvcc.me.edu/workforce/training/#forenrefresh>.

For more information about the Forensic Phlebotomy program, please contact Kasey.Theriault@Maine.gov.



ME SADD

SADD: Road Safety Resources for Students and Communities

As a national leader in promoting road safety among youth for over forty years, SADD offers a wealth of resources designed to help students plan peer led educational campaigns and traffic safety events from start to finish. Here are some of our most popular resources & toolkits.

MySADD courses: [“MySADD”](#) is SADD’s membership platform. Registration is free, and once signed up, advisors and students will be able to access online courses related to traffic safety, mental health, and leadership. One example is the *“Passport to Safe Driving”* course, which is a resource that brings together driving tips, PSAs, podcasts, and more to give new drivers the support needed to learn the art and science of driving.

Mobilization Calendar: Every year, SADD publishes a [“Mobilization Calendar”](#) with upcoming traffic safety dates. Combined with MySADD newsletter reminders of traffic safety dates and complete event planning guide, students and advisors have the tools necessary to plan and execute a traffic safety event in their community.

Rock the Belt: SADD’s [“Rock the Belt”](#) program promotes seat belt use and can be used both for teens and younger students. The program educates students about the life saving importance of wearing seatbelts through awareness campaigns and engaging activities, such as a seatbelt selfie contest,

and a quick click relay race in which students race one another to wear seatbelts from one car to the next until the finish line. The program empowers students to encourage their peers to make seat belts a consistent habit.

21 or Bust: The [“21 or Bust”](#) toolkit is designed to prevent underage drinking by educating teens about the legal drinking age and the dangers of alcohol consumption before 21. The tool kit includes activities, educational materials, and media strategies for students to promote alcohol-free lifestyles by working with local beverage retailers who pledge to enforce the drinking age. Students will work with beverage retailers to see which drinks are most popular and will execute a sticker shock campaign. The stickers are very visible and detail the consequences of purchasing alcohol for people under the age of 21. This project is designed to remind people that they can be arrested for purchasing alcohol for minors and empowers students to engage their peers and communities in discussions about alcohol safety and responsible choices.

The toolkits above are only a few resources that SADD has to offer. We encourage you to visit the [SADD.org](#) to learn more about the organization and to sign up for [MySADD](#) to dive deeper into our resources.

(Continued on page 11)

TSRP Talk: Current Activities

Maine's TSRPs Coordinate the First "OUI Week" Training in December

Maine's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors work with the Office of Cannabis Policy, MCJA, and the Maine Prosecutors Association to host a week-long: OUI Boot Camp; ARIDE; Green Lab training; at no cost to Maine law enforcement officers.

By Scot Mattox, TSRP

While working on other highway safety projects during the last quarter of 2024, TSRP Saucier and I observed that the fatal crash numbers were unusually high. Indeed, as 2024 comes to an end, the number of fatal crashes climbed to 173, making it one of deadliest years on Maine roads in the past decade.

We were curious how many of those crashes involved impairment, so we worked with Highway Safety Coordinator Nate McLaughlin and Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab director Ellen Fraser. Our correspondence revealed that nearly *40% of drivers* involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes since 2020 had unacceptable levels of intoxicants in their blood at the time of testing – almost 40%!

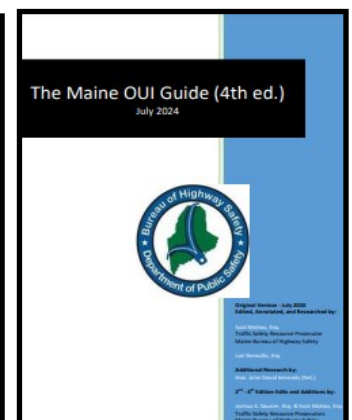
While there are many possible approaches to combat this issue, we believed one of the quickest and most efficient ways was to create a training program that gives patrol officers (the ones who are most likely making the initial responses to these types of crashes) all the best and latest information on investigating impaired driving – all in one place. Thus, *OUI Week* was born.

We designed *OUI Week* this by merging the *OUI Boot Camp* class that we were already teaching with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's *ARIDE* Class and a *Green Lab* class sponsored by the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy. Additionally, Assistant District Attorney Pat Mador from the Maine Prosecutor's Association volunteered to teach for a section in both the Green Lab and the moot court portion of the OUI Boot Camp.

To give full credit where it is due, it was originally Don Finnegan's idea to combine the ARIDE Class with a Green Lab and he asked us to try it months ago. We just took it a step further.



Both the SFST pocket guide and the Maine OUI guide can be obtained for your Agency by reaching out to your LEL's. The Maine OUI guide (4th edition) can be found electronically [here](#).



TSRP Talk Cont.

The result is a comprehensive, cost-free, weeklong class that guided Maine law enforcement officers through the entire process of an OUI investigation, from the traffic stop to courtroom testimony, with a strong emphasis on drug impairment and cannabis. This unprecedented event was made possible through the coordination of Dirigo Safety and the collaboration of the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Office of Cannabis Policy, and Maine Prosecutor's Association.

The seminar was a resounding success, with **73** law enforcement officers from **33** different Maine law enforcement agencies, one from New Hampshire, and two from federal agencies attending some or all the training. The event garnered some media attention, including a feature on ABC Fox News Bangor.

https://www.foxbangor.com/news/state/first-of-its-kind-training-aims-to-equip-maine-officers-with-new-skills-for-oui/article_cf9c9bcc-b179-11ef-b8eb-ffcc369ef18c.html

Below is a copy of the original press release:

DIRIGO SAFETY, LLC COORDINATES WITH THREE MAINE STATE AGENCIES TO HOST A WEEK OF TOP-NOTCH IMPAIRED DRIVING INVESTIGATION TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTORS IN AUBURN FROM DECEMBER 2-6, 2024

The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, and the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy are sponsoring cutting-edge impaired driving investigation training at no cost to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. This training, hosted and coordinated by Dirigo Safety, LLC, aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of attending law enforcement and prosecutors who are involved with impaired driving investigations.

For the first time, all three classes are offered consecutively and without interruption at one location. Furthermore, the order of the classes build upon the knowledge gained in the previous sessions. This comprehensive training week is a response to the large number of fatal crashes this year, and the high percentage of intoxicants detected in the blood of drivers involved in fatal crashes between 2020 and 2023.

Investigation reveals that between those years, 38% of drivers in fatal motor vehicle crashes in Maine, who had blood drawn because of those crashes, tested positive for intoxicants (either alcohol, drugs, or a combination). Additionally, cannabis was the most frequently detected drug in OUI Drug arrests during the year 2023.

Training Schedule:

Day One: The week begins with the *Fundamentals of OUI Investigation* class, sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety. This class covers all the basics of an OUI investigation, including the initial stop, roadside interviews, first response to fatal crashes and includes a significant focus on drug impairment (especially cannabis and opiates). Participants will receive a 2024 printed copy of the Maine OUI Guide.

TSRP Talk Cont.

Days Two and Three: The Maine Criminal Justice Academy coordinates the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement* (ARIDE) class under a grant from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety. ARIDE provides officers with a better understanding of the elements surrounding the enforcement of impaired driving laws and helps them become more proficient at detecting, apprehending, testing, and prosecuting impaired drivers. The course includes elements of both the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Drug Recognition Expert curriculum.

Day Four: The *Green Lab: Cannabis Impairment Detection Training* class, sponsored by the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy, offers an in-depth discussion about cannabis, its different forms, legal status, and legislative history. It includes the latest usage trends and a suggested enhanced SFST protocol for detecting cannabis impairment roadside. The day concludes with a hands-on green lab where officers practice impairment detection skills on volunteers dosed with known amounts of cannabis and alcohol, providing attendees with a gauge of the reliability of their detection skills. The lab is run by a licensed pharmacist.

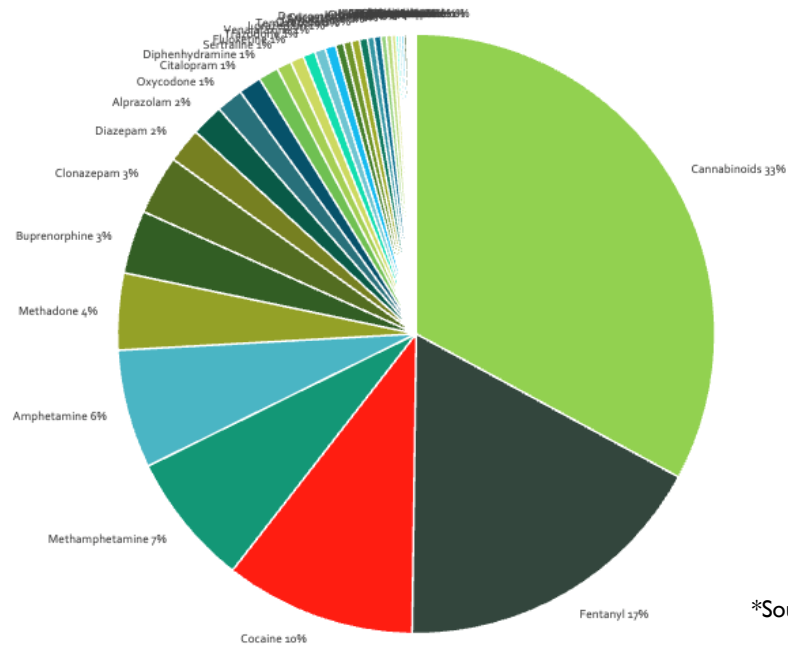
Day Five: The week concludes with *OUI – After the Arrest*, which begins with a refresher on fatal crash investigations and covers all the steps of OUI post-arrest, from obtaining a chemical test in a constitutionally appropriate manner, to testifying in court. This class includes mock testing on various segments of an OUI investigation, including vehicle in motion, personal contact with an impaired driver, and pre-arrest screen (field sobriety testing).

Fatal Crashes with Positive Blood Tests (2020-2023) *

Year	Total Number of Operators Involved in a Fatal Crash	Total Number of Operators Involved in a Fatal Crash Who Tested Positive <u>For</u> Intoxicants	Percentage of Positive Blood Tests for Intoxicants
2020	213	77	36%
2021	191	65	34%
2022	246	100	41%
2023	168	65	39%
Totals	818	307	38%

*Source: Maine Bureau of Highway Safety FARS

OUI/DUID Cases Drug Blood Frequency: Maine 2023*



*Source DHHS HETL Lab

In conclusion, this project is textbook example of TSRPs coordinating an inter-agency, multidisciplinary approach to the investigation and prosecution of impaired driving and other traffic crimes. Here, we do so by providing training, education, and technical support to prosecutors and law enforcement personnel throughout Maine by encouraging positive information-sharing relationships and interagency cooperation (in both the public and private sector) to increase the effectiveness of traffic safety crime investigation and prosecution throughout the State.

Scot Mattox, Esq.
Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor
95 Main St., Suite 3 Auburn, ME.
(207) 200-1112

[Dirigo Safety, LLC](#)™, a contractor for:
The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety
[Maine Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors](#)



(Continued from page 3)

Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Unit

If you truly want to make a difference, and make your community safer, reducing the number of crashes is where it's at. While February's class is full, selection for the 2026 DRE class will begin in the summer. Do you want to be the difference, and are you ready for the challenge?

(Continued from page 5)

New Pedestrian Safety PSA's

clists, pedestrians, and being caution driving in work zone areas. This type of messaging is in line with what we have done before, in which local citizens say why safe driving is important to them. Audio and video versions were submitted of the three PSAs and are being incorporated into our media buy and have already been posted on social media. The new PSAs can be viewed on our [YouTube Channel](#). The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety is currently working on a new Request for Proposal for new PSAs, print materials, and a motorcycle training safety video.

(Continued from page 6)

SADD National Student Leadership Council Applications Are Open

We also want to call to your attention as we head into the start of the new year that applications are currently open for SADD'S National Student Leadership Council (NSLC). We are looking for students to represent Maine on the National Student Leadership Council, ensuring that Maine is reflected in the student planning process for initiatives, resources, and the annual SADD conference.



To learn more about SADD or to collaborate, Blossom can be reached at bthao@sadd.org or 770-687-1881.



The bureau of Highway is pleased to introduce their newest Highway Safety Coordinator, Karrie Cormier. Karrie has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Southern New Hampshire University. She has been the Operations and Programming Coordinator for the Office of Career Exploration and Development at Bowdoin College since June of 2023. Welcome to the Team!



Printer Grant Update:

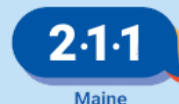
Many of you have been asking about the status of the BHS funded grants to purchase printers to support the eCitation program. Director Stewart has approved the project however additional work is ongoing to identify the specific funding stream to support the project. Jim and I will provide additional updates as necessary.



Community Resource Page



Help Me Grow
Maine



A Solution to Help Young Children Shine



Help Me Grow is a central access point designed to connect families to information and services about child development and community resources.

In partnership with 211 Maine caregivers and providers can contact Help Me Grow for additional support. Help Me Grow will listen, link families to services, and provide follow-up to both caregivers and referral sources.

How It Works:

Eligibility

We are available at no cost to all Maine children, birth to eight, and their families/caregivers. Parents can also call for assistance during pregnancy.

Centralized Access Point

We assist caregivers and child health providers in connecting children to the grid of existing community and State resources that can help them thrive, through a "warm hand-off" from families to resources.

Resources

We help support a network of connected service providers, that can effectively serve families in Maine who have a variety of needs.

Developmental Screening

We promote working with families to recognize developmental milestones and utilize the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) to assess development. If concerns are identified in the screening process, we work with families to connect to early intervention professionals for further assessment.

Consider Referring A Family When:

- You are unsure what services a family might be eligible for, but know they need support.
- A family needs additional support navigating next steps in accessing resources (CDS, WIC, etc.).
- A screening needs to be completed, or family needs support completing an online ASQ®.



Scan QR Code to the right to learn more



Non-Discrimination Notice

The Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate.

**CHOICES
MATTER.**



Hillari Morgan

Director of Youth Programs | CHOICES MATTER

- 207.356.5095
- hillari@allianceIMS.com
- www.choicesmatter.com
- 2525 Perimeter Place Dr. Suite 136 Nashville, TN 37214

About Maine

In partnership with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, Choices Matter is a life changing in-school program using personal stories and interactive materials to inspire students to make the right choices both behind the wheel and in life. Please contact Hillari Morgan for more information.

Winter Weather Driving Tips



Winter is back!

Now that winter has arrived again :) or again :), its time for all of us to take a few minutes to prepare for this potentially challenging time of travel. Here are a few suggestions from the experts!

Lights

Check your headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers and interior lights. Be sure to also check your trailer brake lights and turn signals, if necessary.

Windshield Wipers

You can quickly go through a lot of windshield wiper fluid in a single snowstorm. Make sure your vehicle's reservoir is full of high-quality "winter" fluid with de-icer before winter weather hits. Make sure defrosters and all windshield

wipers work and replace any worn blades. Consider installing heavy-duty winter wipers if you live in an area that gets a lot of snow and ice.

Cooling System

Make sure you have enough coolant in your vehicle, and that it meets the manufacturer's specifications. See your vehicle owner's manual for recommendations. Check the cooling system for leaks, test the coolant, and drain or replace the old coolant.

You may also want to visit your mechanic for a tune-up and ask them to check for leaks, badly worn hoses, or other needed parts, repairs, and replacements.

Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, and supplies you might need in an emergency, including:

- a snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper;
- abrasive material (sand or kitty litter), in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow;
- jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices (flares and emergency markers); first aid kit, including [tourniquet](#);
- blankets for protection from the cold; and

a cell phone and charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

Gas Up or Plug It In

Keep your gas tank close to full whenever possible.

Similarly, in the case for [electric and hybrid-electric vehicles](#), it is important keep your battery charged and to also minimize the drain on the battery. In general, batteries with liquid electrolyte have reduced energy storage and delivery capabilities at lower temperatures, which is why most all vehicle batteries use battery power for self-heating in low temperatures. The battery drain due to heating can be minimized by keeping your electric vehicle as warm as possible during freezing temperatures. A common way to do this is plugging your vehicle in at night during the winter – keeping the battery in its optimal temperature ranges.

Plan Your Route

Check your local weather and traffic reports before heading out. If your roads are not in good shape, consider postponing non-essential travel until the roads are cleared. If you do have to go out, make sure you are prepared in case you become delayed while traveling. If making a long road trip when winter weather is forecasted, consider leaving early or changing your departure to avoid being on the roads during the worst of the storm.

Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go—even if you use a GPS—and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time. On longer trips, plan enough time to stop to stretch, get something to eat, check your phone, and change drivers or rest if you feel drowsy.

The 2025 Lifesavers Conference provides a national platform with approximately 70 workshops in ten tracks, plenary sessions, and an extensive exhibit hall. The Lifesavers Conference program is designed to engage federal, state and local government, law enforcement, public health, injury prevention, advocacy, and non-profit organization professionals in an exchange of ideas, strategies, and programs to reduce preventable injuries and deaths. Registration is now open for the 2025 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety. Follow the [link](#) to the registration page.

