



Sheriff  
Dan Altena  
Sioux County Sheriff's Office  
4363 Ironwood Ave., Ste. 1  
Orange City, IA 51041

Office (712) 737-2280 Fax (712) 737-8185

**Stay safe this winter with our preparedness tips**

The Sioux County Sheriff's Office wants everyone to be safe this winter. Please take time now to read our tips and prepare for the dangers that winter can bring:

**Winter Safety Preparedness:**

- Sign up for NIXLE, our community and emergency update notification tool by going to our website, [www.siouxcountysheriff.com](http://www.siouxcountysheriff.com) and use services such as calling 511 and downloading the IOWA 511 app to check road conditions for where you'll travel.
- Prepare your vehicles now; if you aren't able to do this yourself, bring them to a trusted mechanic to make sure they are ready for winter, especially checking the vehicle battery condition and antifreeze.
- Make sure your cell phone is charged up before you take winter trips and pack a phone charger, flashlight, hat, gloves, blankets, shovel and non-perishable food snacks in your vehicle in case you become stranded.

**Driving in the Snow:**

- Make sure your tires are properly inflated; cold air reduces the tire pressure.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly to maintain traction; anticipate your need to stop, especially on ice and snow-covered roads.
- Reduce your speed and remember that everything takes longer on snow and ice.
- Avoid stopping while going up snow or ice covered hills and as you crest the hill, reduce speed and proceed down hills with caution.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full and use fuel line antifreeze.
- Most importantly, stay home when weather is dangerous. Use good judgment-if you don't have to go out, don't.
- If you become stranded, stay inside your vehicle; it becomes a temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to find you. Don't try to walk in a severe winter storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle and become disoriented and lost.
- Avoid fatigue and get rest before taking on winter tasks and driving.

