

Winter Weather Safety Tips

Driving in Inclement Weather

- Maintain your vehicle: check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers—keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- Have on hand: flashlight, jumper cables, bag of sand or kitty litter (for tire traction if vehicle gets stuck), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares), blankets, and cell phone. *For long trips*, add food and water, and medication.
- Lower driving speeds and keep plenty of distance between vehicles to allow for stopping safely.
- Be aware of snow removal crews and give them a wide clearance.
- Be aware of black ice—dew, fog, and water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces in nearly invisible layers.
- Avoid hurrying when traveling during stormy weather—give yourself plenty of time to drive to your destination.

Walking on Ice and Snow

- Wear boots or shoes with treaded soles—avoid plastic and leather soles.
- Try not to carry too much so that you can use your hands and arms to balance yourself.
- Walk carefully, but be prepared to fall. Try to avoid using your arms to avoid a break or sprain; if you fall backward, make an effort to tuck in your chin to help prevent your head hitting with full force.
- When entering a building, try to remove as much snow and water from your shoes as you can, and take notice of any floors or stairs that might be slippery.
- Use caution when entering or exiting your vehicle; use the car for support.
- Use caution when walking under trees; an accumulation of ice can cause tree branches to break and fall, unexpectedly.
- Streets, parking lots, and sidewalks that have been shoveled and plowed should still be approached with caution. No matter how well snow and ice are removed you could still encounter a slippery surface when walking outdoors.

Dressing for Warmth and Protection

- Wear a snow cap, headband, ear muffs, or hood to keep your head and ears warm, but make sure you can still hear what's going on around you. Most of our body heat escapes through the head.
- Wear gloves or mittens to keep your hands warm. Mittens allow your fingers to stay in contact with each other and share their warmth, while gloves allow your fingers greater flexibility.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help keep your feet warm and dry.
- Wear something bright if walking after dark.

Fire Safety

- With the exception of pre-approved College events, open flames, including candles, oil lamps, and lanterns are prohibited in all campus buildings and on College grounds.
- The use of space heaters in campus buildings is prohibited. Please report any temperature concerns to workorder@etown.edu.
- In the event of a fire:
 1. If you discover fire, smoke, or hear the fire alarm, leave the building immediately via the stairs. DO NOT use the elevator.
 2. On your way out, if you pass a fire alarm pull station, pull it if the alarm is not already ringing.
 3. Once outside, go to the [assembly point](#) specified for your building. Campus Security and the fire department will be arriving, so be sure to stay at your assembly point out of the way.
 4. Remain outside until you are told to return to the building by Campus Security/Officer-In-Charge.

Power Outages

It is possible for heavy ice to cause a power outage. The College has a plan in place for power outages that will keep students warm and fed—more details will be released should a power outage occur on campus.

Inclement Weather Policy

During extreme weather, the College follows established procedures regarding classes, staffing and other scheduled on-campus events. The policies include notification guidelines, scheduling information and services information.

- Faculty and staff members can read about inclement weather policies on the [Human Resources Web page](#).
- Students will find guidelines on the [Dean of Students Web page](#).