

PREPARING FOR THE WINTER ROAD

Introduction

Welcome to the first Winter Road Update for the 2010-2011 season. Kimesskanemenow Corporation is looking forward to another year of providing a safe winter road for the communities along the Western James Bay coast. The Corporation is assembling a knowledgeable and skilled team that will help build and safely maintain the road for all users.

This issue of the newsletter will give some tips on making sure your tires and vehicle are prepared for the winter season ahead.

Emergency Assistance

Proper safety precautions should always be considered whenever traveling on the winter road. Our previous winter road newsletters have discussed what emergency kit items road users may wish to include in their vehicle when traveling in the winter.

Kimesskanemenow Corporation staff members have basic survival gear in their vehicles that can be used to help affected individuals and protect them from the elements until help arrives. Winter Road staff and the winter road First Response Team also can respond to accidents using tools such as the "Jaws of Life" to help extract drivers from vehicles if they are trapped.

If breakdowns occur, Kimesskanemenow Corporation staff will try to assist road users and get them back on their way. However if abandoned vehicles are found along the road, they will be tagged and marked. For safety, pylons will be used to indicate that a vehicle or other hazard is on the road ahead. Staff will also call a towing company if requested by the owner. Vehicles will be removed at the owner's expense if left for more than two days.

These services are essential for protecting road users in the event of an emergency. Staff will



Past Participants of
Auto-Extraction Training

always try to meet the immediate needs of stranded individuals to the best of their abilities.

Although Kimesskanemenow Corporation staff are trained to spot and assist drivers, it is important to remember that they are not paramedics, and do not have extensive medical training. The First Response Team has undergone basic emergency first aid training to help individuals with minor injuries,

however substantial injuries will require a call to the closest ambulance, or air ambulance for assistance. As a result, there could be a significant delay in the time it takes to get medical attention.

Winter Tires

Driving on the winter road can sometimes be challenging because of poor grip (traction) that can cause your vehicle to skid. While it is important to go slow to keep the road in good condition and to maintain control, another way to improve traction is to put winter tires or studs on your vehicle.



Remember to be Cautious to
Avoid Accidents

Winter tires are designed to give your vehicle improved traction on snow because of special rubber and tread designs.

Transport Quebec estimates that winter tires in good condition can

shorten braking distances by as much as 25%. This distance can be important to help you respond quickly to poor conditions, or avoid animals or obstacles that could be in your way.

Northern Ontario residents can legally use studs on tires. Studs are short metal spikes that sometimes come included on winter tires and can improve stopping on wet ice.

Deep tire treads are also important to give you more stopping distance. Tire treads under 3mm should be replaced, and you cannot legally drive in Ontario if they are lower than 1 mm. Keeping your tires in good condition is important and is one more way to stay safe this season!



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The Winter Road generally is open from January to March each year. Watch the website for updates on road openings and closures that could impact your travel schedule.

The James Bay Winter Road is managed by:

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