



## **Risk of snow Emergency instructions**

### **General Precautions**

- At the beginning of winter, equip your car with snow tires or chains, especially if you live in an area that frequently has snow
- Check the wiper blades and battery (in the cold, there is a risk of it draining) and do not put antifreeze on the radiator or in liquid to clean the windshield (to avoid the risk of damage if the temperature drops below freezing)
- Go over the positioning of snow chains, check to ensure you have the right type for your car, and make sure you have a pair of work gloves
- Make sure you have an adequate supply of salt handy for use on private roads, including pedestrian walkways (salt can be purchased at farmers markets)
- In every office and public building, have salt plus at least one shovel available
- Know information about the forecast and potential changes in the weather

### **If the Forecast Predicts Snow**

#### **Obligations**

In case snow remains on the ground after snowfall, residents of buildings that are in front of public roads are obligated by the regulations of the city police to:

- Remove snow from the sidewalks
- Clean the street gutters (drains) and keep manholes free of snow to facilitate the flow of water
- Spread salt on the areas that have been cleared of snow, in case of freezing conditions
- Open routes to intersections and pedestrian crossings outside the building
- Take down any icicles or clumps of snow hanging from ledges and gutters
- Move any cars parked on the sides of the road

#### **General Rules**

- Limit or postpone, whenever possible, traveling with a car
- Whenever possible, use public over private transportation, and make sure that the car being used has front-wheel drive
- Do not use two-wheeled vehicles
- Wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the situation and the possibility of walking

- Do not wait until there are unsafe conditions to put snow chains on your car, especially if you are taking routes with slopes
- Do not continue your journey in a car if you do not have the proper equipment or haven't already driven in snow
- Avoid leaving the car in areas that can impede the progress of other vehicles, especially operational and emergency vehicles
- Help people that need it and do not hesitate to call for help (with mounting chains, to park your car on private property, for advice and guidance, etc.)
- Stay informed about the roads through television, the radio, and message boards found on major roadways
- Report problems to the agencies that manage the roadways or local emergency numbers, in case there is a situation that requires the dispatch of emergency services

### **Use of Salt**

- Salt is not effective if the ice is too thick or if the temperature is too cold (<-10°C), so it is advisable to use it as soon as the possibility of ice forming occurs
- In case of strong snow, it is necessary to remove it before spreading the salt
- One kilogram of salt is necessary for every 20 square meters (using more than that can damage the pavement)
- Do not use water to get rid of snow or ice, especially if salt has already been placed in the area

### **Water Supply Network**

- Ask your building manager about information regarding protecting water pipes from the possibility of ice
- Properly protect your water meter from ice using appropriate insulating materials

### **Tips for Driving**

- If you intend to frequently travel on roads that have snow on them, it is important to substitute normal tires with snow tires. Snow chains must also be ready for use, because in the presence of heavy snowfall, snow tires may not be enough.
- Chains should only be used on roads covered in snow; otherwise you run the risk of damaging them, as well as compromising safety. It's important to practice putting on snow chains to familiarize yourself with the process.
- The car, if it is on a wet or snowy road, has less ability to brake and turn. Also, snow that has accumulated on the roof of the car can slide onto the windshield when braking, so it is important to remove that before driving. Ice on the windshield should be removed with a scraper.
- You must start the car slowly, to avoid the tires spinning but the car not going anywhere. If you have an automatic car, it is important to switch into winter mode. When you will not put yourself or anyone else in an unsafe situation, it is advisable to test the brakes, to see how they respond to the roads and how much space is necessary to leave between cars. In general, the drive must be as smooth as possible, especially when accelerating, braking and turning.
- Before heading into turns and curves, reduce your speed on the straight roads. When on a curve, it is important to have a stable grip on the wheel to ensure the car tires remain in contact with the road and respond to the wheel. Keep the speed of

the car low and constant to avoid unbalancing it. If the car loses the ability to steer, it is necessary to find grip. To do this, reduce speed by lifting off the accelerator and slowly pushing down on the brake pedal, but without locking the wheels. If the car begins to slide to the rear (front-wheel drive), accelerate to counteract this. Do not brake under any circumstances because it will increase the imbalance.