Winter Weather Driving Stats and Facts

FACTS

- 1. Whether behind the wheel or steering a snowmobile, sober driving is just as important in winter when conditions can change at a moment's notice
- 2. Police amp up impaired driving patrols in the holiday season when drivers are heading to and from social events
- 3. Winter tires improve traction and shorten stopping distance. The performance of all-season tires suffers when temperatures dip below 7 C as their rubber loses elasticity, according to the Canadian Automobile Association
- 4. Snow and ice are more slippery at 0 C than at -20 C or below, according to Transport Canada
- 5. Driving on snowy roads can take your car 10 times longer to stop completely
- 6. Transport Canada reports that black ice can be present on roads with temperatures between 4 C and -4 C. The slick, transparent ice can be found on roads, bridges and overpasses even long after sunrise
- 7. Ice can form on bridges and overpasses before roads as the cold air underneath causes surface moisture to freeze
- 8. USA Today found the deadliest times of day for winter car accidents in 2015: 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. According to the report, Saturday was the deadliest day (286 deaths), but Friday was a close second (197 deaths).
- 9. According to a study done by the FHWA, non-fatal injuries and property damage incidents increase significantly when it snows, but fatal crashes decline.

STATS

- About 17% of car accidents occur in snowy conditions (FHWA).
- 156,164 auto crashes occur annually due to icy roads,

- federal data shows (FHWA).
- 2000 people die and over 135,000 people are injured each year due to car accidents on icy and snowy road.
- Each year, an average of 1,836 deaths and 136,309 injuries are attributed to conditions on icy and snowy roads.
- Icy road fatalities account for more deaths than all other weather hazards combined (3.6 times more).
- About 3,200 Americans died in motor vehicle accidents because of winter driving conditions, such as snow, freezing rain, sleet, or ice in the years 2011 to 2015.

Collisions in Canada

- In 2017, nearly 30 per cent of collisions reported to the National Collision Database happened on wet, snowy or icy roads. One third happened in January, February, November and December
- December had the second highest number of total collisions in 2017 with 26,824 incidents. Of those, more than 14,000 resulted in at least one injury
- Single-vehicle collisions were most common in early winter with November, December and October ranking in the top three in 2017