As we start to get out our winter woolies, are you prepared for winter driving? We can’t be certain when the ice and snow will come but just in case....

Every year people get caught out in severe weather and we want to make sure everyone is ready.

Before setting off – check and make sure:
- You tune into your local radio stations for travel information and weather forecasts - Heart Radio – 96.6FM and BBC Northants – 103.6 & 104.2FM
- Your mobile phone is fully charged
- You have your breakdown recovery contact details are handy
- That your tyre pressures are at the recommended level and that the tread depth is correct.
- Don’t forget your spare!
- That your lights are clean and in working order.
- That the wiper system is working effectively.
- That the washer-bottles are full and contain a suitable additive to prevent freezing.
- That your battery is in good condition, topped up and fully charged.
- Your anti-freeze is at the correct level (your garage can do this for you).

Before driving off
- Consider whether your journey is essential.
- Allow extra time for your journey
- Make sure all your windows and mirrors are completely clear of ice and condensation.
- Carry a can of de-icer and a scraper in the car.
- Cars left outside overnight will benefit from their windscreen being covered over.
- Ensure you have “outside” clothing and a torch with you in case you have to get out of your vehicle.
- Consider carrying a blanket
- Carry drinks with you

When driving:
- Watch out for vulnerable road users – you share responsibility for their safety.
- Do not travel too fast or too close to the vehicle in front.
- When ice and snow are present drive smoothly, avoiding harsh braking and sudden changes in direction.
- Only travel at a speed at which you can stop within the distance you can see to be clear.
- Keep in as high a gear as possible.
- Always use dipped headlights when visibility is poor due to rain or snow and when driving in fog. See and be seen
- If you are travelling near a gritting lorry give it space, keep well back and do not attempt to overtake
- Allow yourself more time for a journey and in severe conditions only travel when it is necessary.
- It is better to travel a little further on a main road that has been treated than to use untreated minor roads.
- Keep your vehicle well ventilated. The car heater turned up full can quickly make you drowsy

Please remember that the majority of minor roads will not be salted. You should never assume a road has been salted.