



# TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## Winter Weather Wisdom

There is no doubt that weather in Wisconsin can be a bit unpredictable. Everyone has heard the old running joke that Wisconsin has two seasons: construction and winter. Recently, we had another snowfall in the area and I thought it might be helpful to pass on some safety reminders for the upcoming winter season.

While it is important to bundle up with extra layers and to keep gloves handy in your pockets, there are also some important things to keep in your vehicle. Keeping a shovel in the trunk can help you get out of poorly plowed areas or parking lots. In addition, lighter vehicles can be weighed down by storing sandbags or kitty litter bags in the trunk. This can also prevent fishtailing and be spread beneath your tires to gain traction.

As I have mentioned in past columns, emergency kits can be very helpful in a tough situation. Make sure your kit contains basic first aid supplies, jumper cables, a blanket, and maybe a snack or two.

Another important thing to check is the quality of life in your tires. Be sure to check the amount of tread on them. This can easily be done with a penny. Place the penny in the tire groove with Lincoln's head face down. If you can see the top of his head, then it is likely you will need new tires.

Accident rates also tend to rise with icy conditions and our visibility being poorer due to falling snow. When coming upon an accident it's important to be cautious and patient. Be sure to switch lanes if you are able, or at least give the parties involved a little more space. If you do not see emergency personnel, you could give them a call when it is appropriate and safe to do so.

It is not only important to teach our upcoming younger generations to be safe this season, but to help others during the holiday season. One great way to be involved in your community and make a huge impact on the lives of others is to support our local food pantries by donating canned goods and gloves. Moreover, offering to help rake leaves or shovel snow for the elderly members of our community is a caring and thoughtful way to give back.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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