

# Ames Insurance Center November 2011 Newsletter

## Office News

The office will be closed, Thursday 24 & Friday 25 to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Our winter contest continues through November. There are 3 ways to get your name entered to win.

1. Stop by the office & fill out a drawing slip
2. Like us on Facebook
3. Refer your friends & family to us

Do all 3 and get your name entered 3 times!  
Contest ends December 1st!

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## Winter Driving

While driving in winter it's best to be prepared for anything that can happen. Following are some tips to help keep you safe driving this winter.

- Make sure you keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid a possible freeze-up.
- Although it's unpleasant to do in the cold, it's essential that you scrape all of your windows clean of snow and ice.
- When driving on ice or snow accelerate slowly, drive the speed limit (or under in bad weather), and when braking make sure to brake early,

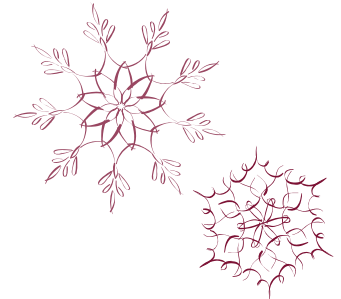
slowly, and correctly. Try to avoid slamming on the brakes.

- If you find yourself skidding and you have anti-lock brakes you should press the pedal down firmly and hold. If you don't have anti-lock brakes you should gently pump the brake pedal.
- Drive cautiously, avoid distractions (talking on the phone), and make sure you have a winter kit in your car, like the one below!

To stay safe here are some things you should keep together in your car:

- Ice scraper & brush
- Warm winter apparel—gloves, hat, blanket
- Tools & flashlight
- Tire traction material (cat litter or sand)
- Jumper cables
- First Aid Kit
- Flares or a reflective triangle
- Shovel

Drive carefully, stay safe & have fun this winter!



## Holiday Risks

During the winter holidays, home and auto insurance claims are at their highest.

Auto risks occur due to the bad weather (follow the tips above to stay safe).

Home risks include theft, fires, and seasonal damage. With

the increased number of holiday travelers leaving their homes unattended, burglaries occur, fires can happen due to holiday lights, and seasonal damage left unnoticed can go from bad to worse.

While gone on holiday, have a

neighbor or close friend check your home occasionally for damage or signs of forced entry. Make sure not to overwhelm outlets or extension cords with holiday lights.

Now you can relax and enjoy your holiday!