



Providers of Commute Options for Middle Tennessee



JANUARY 2008
Volume 3, Issue 1

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First Horizon Insurance Group
615-385-8341 (Kay Biggs)
-and-
MiMi Lee
615-790-4005 or
After Hours:
615-517-6321

Van Voices is a joint publication of The TMA Group and the Regional Transportation Authority

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The TMA Group
(615) 790-4005
www.tmagroup.org

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
(615) 862-8833
www.rta-ride.org

Winter Driving—The Facts

The beginning of winter can bring severe weather conditions in Tennessee, especially when we least expect it. Know the facts about winter driving. Be prepared for the unexpected this time of the year.

- Plan Ahead and allow plenty of time for travel. Drivers should be patient while driving, because trip time can increase in winter weather.
Winterize vehicles. Have a mechanic check the following items: battery; anti-freeze; wipers and washer fluid; ignition system; thermostat; lights; flashing hazard lights; exhaust system; heater; brakes; defroster; tires; and oil level. Also carry a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal.
Be aware of weather conditions this time of the year, as they can change quickly. For more information on road conditions in Tennessee contact TDOT at http://

www.tdot.state.tn.us/tdotsmartway.

Know what these weather conditions mean:

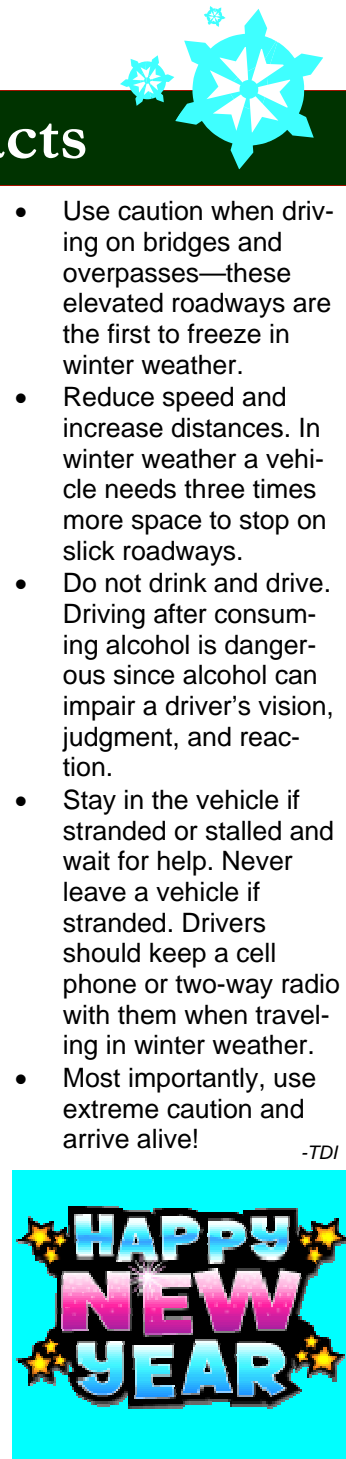
- Winter Storm Outlook is issued prior to a winter storm watch when forecasters believe winter storm conditions are possible.
Winter Storm Watch alerts the public to the possibility of heavy snow, freezing rain, or heavy sleet.
Winter Storm Warning is issued when a combination of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is expected.
Winter Weather Advisories are issued when accumulations of snow, freezing drizzle, and sleet may cause significant inconvenience and moderately dangerous conditions.

- Use caution when driving on bridges and overpasses—these elevated roadways are the first to freeze in winter weather.
Reduce speed and increase distances. In winter weather a vehicle needs three times more space to stop on slick roadways.
Do not drink and drive. Driving after consuming alcohol is dangerous since alcohol can impair a driver's vision, judgment, and reaction.
Stay in the vehicle if stranded or stalled and wait for help. Never leave a vehicle if stranded. Drivers should keep a cell phone or two-way radio with them when traveling in winter weather.
Most importantly, use extreme caution and arrive alive!

-TDI

Always remember to:

- Buckle up. The driver and any passengers should always wear a safety belt. Properly use child safety seats if children are present.



DEFENSIVE ROAD RULES

Welcome to "Road Rules" *Van Voices* segment which addresses defensive driving practices that every driver and passenger should know.

DON'T RUN RED!

There are two basic types of red light runners: 1) the day-dreamer or distracted driver who just doesn't see it; and 2) the driver who is impatient and accelerates on the yellow signal instead of stopping and waiting an average of 45 seconds of a signal cycle! Some of us have been guilty of both. Are we really in that much of a hurry? Running red lights kills hundreds of folks every year.



Running a red light occurs when your vehicle has entered the intersection after the signal turned red. In order to know whether you've entered an intersection, you must know where the intersection begins. Generally, the boundary is farther out than you might think, and that causes part of the problem. The intersection boundary is the extension of the lateral curb lines (of two or more cross streets). The lateral curb line is an unpainted line drawn from corner to corner—just imagine a line drawn from the "point" of each corner across the street to the next one. The painted stop line and crosswalk are typically several feet nearer to you than the boundary, and many drivers erroneously believe the last crosswalk line marks the edge of the intersection. This error can result in an extra bit of time for the light to turn red before you actually enter the intersection, resulting in a violation.

In the defensive driving world, it is said that "the green light anticipator met the red light procrastinator." The collision of these two is usually a "T-bone" - where the two vehicles meet at a 90 degree angle. The typical speed through a collision is over 50 mph! This is one of the most commonly fatal collisions.

If you get a yellow light, stop. You can anticipate when the light is about to change, so it is no excuse to say it was too late. If you have the green light, watch for the red-light runner—look left, look right, then left AGAIN to make sure the intersection is going to be safe before you enter it. Red light runners are often speeding as well so make sure you look down the road far enough to see them coming.

Running red lights is too dangerous, both for you and others, no matter how pressured or late you are. Slow down, pay attention to your driving so you aren't labeled a red-light runner. And live to drive another day! *-Road Trip America*

The TMA Vancentives Reward Program puts money in your pocket!

The Vancentives Reward Program is The TMA Group's way to recognize and thank vanpool drivers and riders for their efforts in implementing and maintaining the vanpool program. The program is simple with three ways to reap rewards: New Vanpooler Reward; Recruiter Reward; and Driver Reward. We want to recognize and congratulate these commuters who in 2007 were rewarded for their efforts.



2007 Vancentives Rewards Program Recipients

D. Logsdon – State of TN	F. Williams – State of TN
S. Chatman-Gilbert – State of TN	S. Uhles – American General
V. Herbert – Vanderbilt	R. Corbett – Vanderbilt
M. Waugh – Vanderbilt	L. Roberts – Vanderbilt
T. Horner – Vanderbilt	C. Bond – Vanderbilt
D. Wehlage – Vanderbilt	M. Smith – State of TN
K. Grissom – State of TN	M. Bobbitt – HSDA
B. Browning – State of TN	T. Geasley – State of TN
T. Pinnix – State of TN	K. Buckner – State of TN
V. Rowland – AT&T	B. Burchard – State of TN
S. Williams – State of TN	C. Duncan – State of TN
M. Smith – State of TN	A. Ford – State of TN
E. Brantley – State of TN	T. Browder – USACE
J. Oviedo – State of TN	J. Gross – State of TN
J. Coulter – State of TN	D. Schneider – State of TN
P. Wilson – State of TN	P. Beirnes – State of TN
G. Flanigan – Ingram Barge	P. Page – State of TN
E. King – State of TN	C. Ihlenfeld – State of TN
E. Page – State of TN	C. Johnson – State of TN
S. Coffman – Ford Motor	S. Walters – Ford Motor
L. Purcell – Ford Motor Credit	B. Staggs – Ford Motor
K. Frederick – General Motors	S. Willeby – State of TN
K. Davis—Veterans Affairs	J. Evans – State of TN
T. Almeyda – Veterans Affairs	G. Works – VA Hospital
D. Stephens – State of TN	J. Horton – VA Hospital
A. Jules – Veterans Affairs	D. Rapley – Vanderbilt
	H. Albright – TN Valley Healthcare
	D. Moore – TN Valley Healthcare
	K. Davis – Veterans Affairs
	B. Sims – Scarritt-Bennett Center
	K. Fanta – Meharry Medical College

Need More Information? Call MiMi @ 790.4005