

ROAD TO SAFETY

Tips For Avoiding Winter Driving Problems

(NAPSA)—Many automotive problems that are associated with winter—hard starting, dead batteries, iced door locks, heater and defroster problems and getting stuck in the snow—can be prevented with minimal investment and time.

That's the advice of Pep Boys, the nation's leading full-service automotive aftermarket retail and service chain, which urges Americans to learn about the importance of being prepared for the upcoming driving season.

"People are very dependent on their cars for shopping and visiting friends and relatives, which is why it's very important for motorists to get their vehicles in top shape," said Bruce Chidsey, Vice President of Service Operations and an ASIA/ASE World Class Technician of Pep Boys. "During the winter months, changes in the weather can adversely affect the performance of a vehicle if it hasn't been properly maintained."

The company's ASE-certified technicians say that preparation begins with having regular preventive maintenance performed on a vehicle. Motorists should have their vehicles' brakes, tires, lighting, belts and hoses, fluid and windshield wipers completely inspected and serviced, if necessary, to ensure that they are working properly for the holiday driving season.

"Taking these small steps now will help keep your car going this winter," added Chidsey. "Battery fluids and tires are key elements that should be checked regularly. Vehicles should start easily even in the toughest conditions, and have properly inflated tires that are in good condition."

In addition, a highway emergency kit should be on hand be-



Before winter weather arrives, preventive vehicle maintenance could prevent you from being left out in the cold.

cause trouble can strike at any time. Items to keep in an emergency kit include:

- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Battery jumper cables
- Flares and cones
- Help sign

In colder climates:

- Ice scrapers
- Snow brushes
- Window and lock de-icer
- Tire chains

In the event of an overnight or midday snowstorm, keeping spares of these items in the home will help motorists avoid being frozen out of their vehicles. Other suggested items include:

- Candle
- Matches
- Winter blanket
- Energy bars and water
- Shovel
- Oil dry or sand for traction

Basic and more extensive emergency kits and maintenance services can be found at any Pep Boys location.

To learn more about winter car care and maintenance, visit www.pepboys.com/learning_center/car_care. To find the nearest Pep Boys location, call 1-800-PEP-BOYS or visit www.pepboys.com.