



Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team

Monthly Newsletter

March, 2010

Prez Says

Snow . . . snow . . . snow!!! Recognizing that winter poses challenges for Team members to patrol, either on foot or in a vehicle, this month was unsafe for the Team to be out and about. Even four-wheel drive vehicles were unable to make it through unplowed streets. Our personal vehicles and Team van and cruisers are not equipped to drive in this kind of winter precipitation. Check out the Team's van, buried on the right!

Did I mention snow offering challenges? The Team's president was unable to drive past the driveway due to the record snowfall in the Metropolitan area. Therefore, surgery had to be rescheduled for March 9. Hope to see you at the April meeting???



Caring for Family

Steve Hood/ST4 has taken an extensive leave of absence to care for his mother. The Team sends its best wishes to his family and looks forward to his return home.

Mentoring Program

The Support Team mentoring program continues to be a priority to give encouragement to new members. When you plan to go on patrol by foot or vehicle, invite another member to go with you.

Training Class

The Team would like to thank J. B. Anderson for his training class on **Incident Command Systems** immediately following the February 4 meeting. Because there was an enormous amount of material to cover, J.B. took the time for a "Q and A" session afterward. It was an extremely interesting presentation.

TEAM



DID YOU KNOW?

Winter Driving Safety: Stay home and off the roads. Let road crews clear the roads Use caution when approaching intersections. During power outages treat all intersections as 4-way stops, Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights, including the hood and roof, before driving. Leave plenty of room for stopping. Remember, posted speed limits are for dry pavement. Use brakes carefully . . . braking early and correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.

Bridge decks freeze first. Due to the difference in the exposure to air, the surface condition can be worse on a bridge than on the approach road. Exit ramps are an even greater challenge during the winter since they may have received less anti-icing material than the main line. Be aware of this when exiting the highway.

DO NOT use the "cruise control" option when driving in wintry conditions. Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the slightest touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

DO NOT get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle. Remember that, if you are driving a four wheel drive vehicle, the vehicle may help you get going quicker but it will not help you stop any quicker. Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles and actually may take longer to stop.

Look further ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by cars and trucks will alert you quicker to problems and give you a split-second extra time to react safely.

Remember that trucks are heavier than cars. Trucks take longer to safely respond and come to a complete stop. So, avoid cutting quickly in front of them.

Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Stay back at least 200 feet and DO NOT pass on the right.

Most importantly, please remember to SLOW DOWN! Also, seat belts should be worn at all times. It is the law!

Special Events

The Support Team wants to extend its warmest birthday wishes to :

Lora Tacey – March 4

SUPPORT
TEAM