



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

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KING: BE MINDFUL OF THURSDAY'S POTENTIAL WINTER WEATHER

ATLANTA – With forecasts predicting possible snow and ice on Thursday, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King is offering tips for Georgia consumer on how best to prepare for the weather and what to do in the event of an auto accident in winter-related conditions.

“If you are involved in an auto accident, it is always advisable to call the authorities immediately to make sure everything is properly documented. It is also important that you do your best to move your vehicle off the road to a safe area where information can be exchanged,” said Commissioner King. “Consumers should always be sure to exchange insurance and contact information with all parties involved in an accident, as well as take pictures of the damages. Be sure to only step out of your car once it is completely safe to do so. Waiting for the authorities to arrive before taking pictures is recommended.”

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for Fannin, Gilmer, Union, Towns, Pickens, Dawson, Lumpkin, and White Counties. A mixture of freezing rain transitioning to snow is expected to begin at 5:00 A.M. Thursday and potentially last until 1:00 A.M. Friday. Total ice accumulation of up to a tenth of an inch and snow accumulation of up to one inch is expected. The snow is expected to potentially reach up to two inches in the higher elevations. This can lead to very dangerous road conditions throughout Thursday evening and into Friday morning. Consumers in the surrounding counties should also keep a close eye on the weather Thursday.

“As we have seen in the recent past, Georgia can have serious winter weather that can negatively impact our residents’ ability to safely get to or from work or home. If you are in areas that are expected to receive this winter weather, please be very mindful of your surroundings when driving,” said Commissioner King. “It is also a great idea to fill up your gas tanks tonight and make sure you have all of the necessary items in your car should you end up stuck on any wintry roads.”

Commissioner King suggests that consumers in North Georgia keep several items in their car if they plan to be on the roads Thursday evening or Friday morning, including:

- Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Jumper cables
- Bottled water and non-perishable food items (granola bars, crackers, trail mix, beef jerky, etc.)
- Multi-purpose tool (Swiss Army Knife or Leatherman Tool)
- Reflective warning triangles
- First-aid kit (medical wrap, Band-Aids, adhesive tape, gauze pads, antiseptic cream and wipes, etc.)
- Spare change and cash
- Blankets and hand warmers

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