Stranded in your car in snow

If anyone is hurt or in danger, call 911.

1. **Stay inside the car.**[1]
2. **Signal for help:** hang a bright cloth (red if you have it) on the antenna, and raise the hood after the snow stops.[2]
3. **Run the engine about 10 minutes each hour** for heat.[2]
4. **Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow** and open a downwind window slightly.[2]
5. **Use blankets and dry layers** from your car kit.[1]

Don’t: run the engine with a snow-blocked exhaust pipe. Carbon monoxide can build up.[2] [3]

Stay-Go Guide · official steps, checked 16 November 2026 · Follow your local officials first.

Sources

1. FEMA / Ready.gov: Winter Weather
2. American Red Cross: Winter Storm Safety
3. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: Carbon Monoxide Information Center

About this PDF

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