

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2023 SAFETY TIPS

These tips are intended for residents, visitors and property owners of Brookfield, VT however our suggestions may serve our neighboring towns.

November and early Winter weather is upon us! When you turned back the clocks, did you change the batteries in your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors that use them?

With early snow, ice and wind have you mounted your snow tires yet?

- Dress for the weather in case of vehicle breakdowns.
- Clean all the snow and ice off your vehicles, it's the law.
- Be smart, drive slower and defensively on snow and ice-covered roadways.

Pedestrian Visibility

At each meeting committee members recount close encounters with people walking or running on the town roads. The pedestrians typically have dark clothing and are very difficult to see. It is hard to avoid what you cannot see. Recently I encountered a person walking in the dark with their dog. But for their white dog in front of them, I would not have seen them until I got really close. Please wear reflective items over your clothes! It is much cheaper and safer than a ride to the Emergency Room or the Medical Examiner's Office.

Winter Driving Can Be Tricky

.Have you provided the new drivers in your family with supervised practice in Winter driving?

.Are you driving extra slow and careful on the first few snowy and ice days?

.Are you aware that there is no vehicle impervious to snowy and icy roads? Your driving skills and judgement are the difference between an incident or a safe trip!

.You may have to share the icy road with pedestrians, horses, dogs, and wild animals.

Be careful with candles and open flames.

- Make sure your chimney has been cleaned.
- Keep all combustible materials a safe distance from your wood stove or fireplace.
- Use caution when disposing of ashes. Use a metal container with an airtight cover.
- Ashes can look like they are out but reignite when exposed to air.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving!

·Be especially careful if you are traveling a long distance. The various modes of travel are all going to be crowded.

· Be kind to and respectful of others, plan ahead.

Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee: Mike Stoddard, Dan Mason, Michael Rutkovsky, Stuart Edson and Lew Stowell.