

# **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

The Christmas Bird Count should be a fun and enjoyable experience, but safety should always come first. Conducting your CBC in a safe manner is your responsibility, and if you are ever concerned about your safety, do not survey. Keep the following safety guidelines in mind for your count:

## **GENERAL SAFETY TIPS**

Bring a cell phone (make sure it's charged!)

Tell a friend or relative where you are going and when you will return.

Bring a first aid kit.

Bring more food and water than you think you will need.

Bring a partner!

## **CAR SAFETY**

Ensure your car is in good working condition and has a full gas tank.

Decide if your car needs snow tires or chains.

Bring a winter emergency car kit.

For information on what goes in a car emergency kit and what to do if you get stuck in the snow, see: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/sfttps/tp201012-en.aspx>.

Make sure you have your spare tire, jack, and tire repair kit (and ensure you know how to use them!)

## **ROAD CONDITIONS**

Check the forecast for road conditions and visibility before you leave home.

Do not continue your count if road conditions are hazardous (e.g., icy roads, blizzard, etc). Use your judgment.

## **TRAFFIC HAZARDS**

Follow all traffic regulations and laws.

If stopping on the roadside, pull off the road completely in a safe location and put on flashing hazard lights.

Wear a fluorescent safety vest if surveying along roadsides.

Always step off the road if another car is approaching.

While driving, only the passenger should handle any tech equipment (gps locations, texts, phone calls, etc.)