



Stranded in the car overnight.

Snow on a mountain road, a breakdown on an empty highway, a closure that will not clear: how to get through the night.

1 Stay with the car



- A car is easier to find than a person on foot
- Walking in blowing snow disorients people fast
- Snow, ice or no visibility: staying put is safer

2 Off the lanes, belt on



- Right shoulder, as far from traffic as you can
- Seat belt on inside until help arrives
- California breakdown: dial 511; hurt: 911

3 Be easy to see



- Bright cloth, red if you have it, on the antenna
- Dome light on at night while the engine runs
- Raise the hood once the snow stops

4 Clear the tailpipe first



- Snow or mud on the pipe sends exhaust inside
- Check it every time before you restart
- Carbon monoxide has no smell or color

5 Engine 10 minutes an hour



- About 10 minutes each hour for heat
- Crack a window a little while it runs
- Never idle long with every window shut

6 Stay warm



- Move blankets and coats from the trunk inside
- Wrap everything, head included
- Huddle together if you are not alone

7 Stay awake, keep moving



- Cold does more harm while you sleep
- Move arms, legs, fingers and toes often
- Do not wear yourself out digging

8 Stay cool



- Drink plenty of water, a little at a time
- Cold, wet cloths on the head, neck and armpits
- Confused, or hot dry skin: call 911

9 Water and food



- Water and snacks belong in every car kit
- Do not eat snow; it lowers body heat
- Bring extra on desert and mountain drives

10 Save the phone



- Text first; texts get through when calls fail
- Keep calls short, then low-power mode
- Charge only while the engine is running

11 Tell someone



- Where you are, the car, and who is with you
- Set a check-in time to save battery
- Before any trip: route and arrival time

12 When to leave the car



- Rising or moving water: go high, call 911
- No safe shoulder: get out and move away
- On tracks: run away at an angle, toward the train

Stay with the car, keep the tailpipe clear, and make yourself easy to find.

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