



## **Media Release by the Motor Schools Association**

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### *MSA urges caution during more bad weather*

The Motor Schools Association has issued further advice as the country sees its second bout of winter weather.

During the last downfall of snow during January, many drivers were caught out by failing to prepare adequately for their journeys.

John Lepine, the MSA's General Manager, said: "The problem is twofold: there are those drivers who set out and drive as though conditions were normal and there are those who are ill-prepared and get caught out by a sudden downfall of snow. Both categories of driver pose problems to themselves and others. Driving as you would do normally, as in dry conditions, will unquestionably put drivers into danger if you don't take notice of the conditions and surroundings. Equally, it is vital that drivers take note of the weather and road conditions before setting off, especially if undertaking a long journey. Even where the weather appears alright, drivers must check the weather forecast and take suitable precautions."

In its annual advice to drivers the MSA suggests, that when driving during winter month be fully prepared for the unexpected: carry liquids, particularly water in plastic bottles, keep blankets in the back of the car, have a fully charged mobile phone and backup battery or charger and ensure you have enough fuel.

Mr Lepine continues: "If you are going to drive be very aware and when stopping, allow 10 times the normal distance and make more use of gears when slowing down. Be conscious of the days following snowfall when there may be underlying ice."

The MSA suggests that if you have any worries about driving, contact a professional driving instructor.

#### **For further information contact:**

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#### **Editors note:**

The MSA was founded in 1935 as a representative body for driving instructors and driving school owners and is the voice for around 6,400 instructors.

The MSA has consultative status with the Driving Standards Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Transport)

MSA lobbies on behalf of its members and campaigns for better road safety.