Crompton Brothers Automotive
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Coquihalla Winter Drive Checklist

Highway 5, Hope to Kamloops. Tick each box before you leave Burnaby and the Lower Mainland. Accidents in heavy snow can close the highway for hours, so pack as if you might wait.

1. Before you leave: vehicle checks

- ☐ **Brakes and brake fluid:** pads, rotors, fluid condition
- ☐ **Coolant and cooling system:** hoses, radiator cap, thermostat
- ☐ **Battery and charging:** tested before the cold
- ☐ **Wipers and washer fluid:** good blades, winter-rated fluid
- ☐ **Tires, pressure and alignment:** check pressure when tires are cold
- ☐ **Transmission fluid:** level and condition
- ☐ **Legal winter tires, Oct 1 to Apr 30:** marked M+S or 3-Peak Mountain Snowflake, at least 3.5 mm tread
- ☐ **Fuel:** leave with a full tank and keep it at least half full

2. Check DriveBC before you go

- ☐ Check **drivebc.ca** for closures, incidents and highway cameras on Highway 5
- ☐ Check the weather forecast; delay the trip if conditions are poor
- ☐ Charge your phone and tell someone your route and arrival time

3. Winter emergency kit to pack

- ☐ Flashlight and spare batteries
- ☐ Non-perishable snacks
- ☐ Water in plastic bottles
- ☐ Warm blankets
- ☐ Extra warm clothes, boots, gloves, toque and socks
- ☐ Hand and foot warmers
- ☐ Phone charger and charged power bank
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Any medications you need
- ☐ Ice scraper and snow brush
- ☐ Small shovel
- ☐ Sand, non-clumping kitty litter or traction mats
- ☐ Booster cables
- ☐ Tire chains or other traction devices
- ☐ Extra windshield washer fluid
- ☐ Road flares, warning light or reflective triangles
- ☐ Emergency seatbelt cutter and window hammer
- ☐ Paper towels or cloth
- ☐ List of contact numbers

Book a pre-trip inspection: 604-540-0304

Red Seal technicians check your brakes, tires, coolant, battery and wipers before the climb.
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4. If you get stuck in a closure

- If your vehicle is not at risk of being hit, **stay inside** for shelter
- Turn on hazard lights; set out a warning light, triangles or flares
- **Keep the tailpipe clear of snow** to keep carbon monoxide out
- When the engine runs, open a window slightly on the side away from the wind
- **Run the engine as little as possible** to save fuel
- Use the dome light, not headlights, to save the battery
- No heavy shovelling or pushing in the cold
- Move your arms and legs often, stay awake, watch for crews
- In an emergency, call 911

Sources (Nov 2026): Winter tire rules: Province of B.C., Passenger Vehicle Tire and Chain Requirements and Designated Winter Tire & Chain Routes (gov.bc.ca). Emergency kit and stuck-in-vehicle tips: Transport Canada, Winter driving: Planning your trip (tc.canada.ca); Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, Driving: Winter (ccohs.ca); WorkSafeBC, Preparing for winter roadside emergencies (worksafebc.com); Public Safety Canada, Get Prepared emergency car kit. Medications and power bank: DriveSmartBC and WorkSafeBC. Live road conditions: DriveBC (drivebc.ca). This checklist is general safety guidance; always follow directions from police and highway crews.