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With freezing temperatures forecast to continue this week, Peterborough City Council is urging motorists to make sure they are ready to deal with adverse conditions on the city's roads.

Peterborough Highways Services is nearly five months in to its annual gritting programme, which covers almost half of the network including all major A and B roads. With temperatures expected to dip lower than previously this winter, they are urging drivers to take action to ensure they are prepared for the conditions.

Andy Tatt, head of Peterborough Highway Services, a partnership between Peterborough City Council and Skanska, said: "We may be well into the winter months, but with temperatures expected to reach their lowest so far this year it's vital that motorists check their vehicles and drive according to the weather conditions, allowing for extra time, even if roads have been gritted."

A video has been produced to help motorists prepare, offering practical tips and advice. As well as lowering speeds and taking more care there are simple things that motorists can do to prepare their vehicles for the freezing temperatures.

Clair George from the city council's prevention and enforcement service gave the following tips for motorists:

- > Check your oil
- > Make sure windscreen wipers are in good working order
- > Keep water levels topped up
- > Make sure lights are clean and all bulbs, including your fog lights work
- > Check the pressure of your tyres
- > Ensure tyres have the legal amount of tread, it can take twice as long to stop when roads are wet and up to 10 times longer in icy conditions
- > Ensure you have sufficient fuel for your journey if conditions worsen

Councillor Peter Hiller, cabinet member for growth, planning, housing and economic development, said: "A great deal of hard work goes on all year round to make sure that our roads are safe when we are faced with adverse weather conditions, such as we are seeing this week.

"Our fleet of gritters are on standby from October to April, ready to react quickly when wintry hazards arrive, ensuring vehicle drivers and residents can use our roads safely and avoid delays. However, it is still down to motorists to take care and to keep checking that their vehicle is winter ready."

Black ice can also affect the city's pavements, cycle routes and footways, so pedestrians and cyclists are also urged to take extra care on journeys over the next few days.