Winter Wheelchair Safety

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Winter Safety tips

• Make sure power wheelchair batteries are charged
  — Batteries lose 60% of their charge when the temperature reaches 0 degrees. Keep batteries warm with covers
• Dress properly for the weather
• Shake off ice and snow from tires prior to entering car or home
• Wipe down all surfaces of chair as soon as possible
  — This prevents rusting

Wheelchair Tires

- Pneumatic tires
- Dirt bicycle tires
- Mini Ski’s in place of front casters

Caution

- Although changing back tires for more traction in snowy conditions will help, front castors and footplates can still dig into the snow and get stuck.
- Don’t attempt to go through any snow that’s deeper 1 ½ inches (especially if it’s wet snow; not the fluffy stuff). Whether you use a manual or a power wheelchair, if you attempt deep snow you’ll get stuck.

Using Wire ties on tires

- 25-30 wire ties
- Can be used with both power and manual wheel chair tires
- Tie buckle heads so that they are facing outward and away from tires.
  - This provides for a smoother ride
- Place tie heads on inside of tire to protect hands and gloves

http://www.spinalcord.org/roll-in-a-winter-wonderland/

Chains on tires

- Mountainbikeriders.com gives directions and the supplies needed to put chains on tires
- Do not go indoors with chains on as they may scratch the floor
FreeWheel

- With the FreeWheel, your wheelchair casters are lifted off the ground turning you into a 3-wheel, all-terrain chair.
- Can be used on a folding or rigid wheelchair

https://www.gofreewheel.com/default.asp

Action Trackchair

- All-terrain power wheelchair
- Navigate mountain roads, campgrounds, woods, beaches, hiking trails, frozen lakes, shallow streams, muddy and snowy terrain and much more
- Learn more at: www.actiontrackchair.com
Ramp and walkway safety

- Table salt
  - Avoid rock salt because this may slippery
- Cat litter
- Heated driveways and ramp floors
- Non-slip mats
- Spray on traction
- Paint on coatings
- Non skid tread plates
- Clear snow off ramp

http://www.doityourself.com/stry/keeping-a-wheelchair-ramp-safe-during-rain

Homemade De-Icer

- Vinegar and Water mixed in a spray bottle
  - 50% vinegar, 50% water
- Rubbing Alcohol and water mixed in a spray bottle
  - 2/3 rubbing alcohol, 1/3 water

http://www.forhousing.com/homemade-de-icers