

# The BOMB CYCLONE

## "It Seems to Come Out of Nowhere!"

If you've never heard of a Bomb Cyclone, you are not alone. Most people have never heard of them until they are unfortunate enough to be in the middle of one.

Most of us remember a few years ago when a blizzard paralyzed traffic on a seven-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, stranding motorists for more than 24 hours before rescuers could get to them.

It was dusk on a Friday night when high winds whipped up heavy snow making visibility nearly impossible. Just before the Allegheny Tunnel between Somerset and Bedford, several tractor-trailers were unable to climb the icy hill and jackknifed, blocking all westbound lanes on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Behind them, more than five hundred vehicles came to a standstill including buses carrying the Duquesne University men's basketball team and the Temple University women's gymnastics team. Stranded vehicles and severe weather prevented emergency crews and heavy-duty tow trucks from reaching the scene for more than 24 hours.

That was a "Bomb Cyclone." It's caused by a "bombogenesis" which is a weather condition that occurs when quickly rising air triggers a sudden drop in barometric pressure – at least 24 millibars within 24 hours. That's nearly double normal levels. The result is a winter storm that very rapidly intensifies into a blizzard pummeling us all with high and severe winds, plung-



ing temperatures, and frenzied snow that causes white-out conditions. And they are more common than you may think. Meteorologists say the Northern Hemisphere is battered with some 50 "Bomb Cyclones" every year. "It seems to come out of nowhere!" one meteorologist said.

What can you do if you find yourself in one?

### HOW TO SURVIVE IN A STRANDED CAR

Emergency rescue experts have some suggestions. They advise:

Stay calm so you can make wise decisions. Consider your two fundamental needs – shelter for warmth and enough water to drink.

Use your cellphone to call for help before your battery dies. If you are stranded for days, you may need to

turn your phone off to conserve your battery for emergency use. If you turn your vehicle on periodically, you can charge your phone at the same time.

Consider your options. The best advice is to stay with your vehicle. The car is a pretty good shelter unless you can see better alternatives a short distance away.

Make yourself visible to rescuers by tying a piece of fabric to an antenna or door handle so it blows in the wind.

Honk your horn, but only when you are running your vehicle. Use Morse Code for SOS which is three short honks, three long honks, followed by three short honks. Repeat every 15 seconds.

Clear the exhaust pipe regularly. You need to do this more than once if the snow continues to fall. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal. Symptoms

Continued on page 2

# How Chuck's Can Help!

Good advice tells us to hope for the best but prepare for the worst and what could be worse than being stranded in a blizzard caused by a "Bomb Cyclone?"

On page 1 we told you what to do if you become stranded in your car due to that weather monstrosity. Here's some advice on what to do to prepare your vehicle beforehand so your vehicle and you stand the best chance for success on sunny thoroughfares or — heaven forbid — you are stranded on dark icy roads.

Keeping your vehicle in the best condition possible through routine maintenance and by making repairs immediately will benefit your vehicle in all circumstances — including becoming stranded in frigid weather.

That's how Chuck's can help. Our expert ASE-certified mechanics will winterize your vehicle before you have an emergency. Here are some of the things we'll inspect:

**Battery:** Cold temperatures diminish your battery's muscle. When outside temperatures hit zero, your battery only has half the cranking power it has at 80 degrees, according to Consumer Reports. Additionally, parts wear out. Batteries only have about four years of life. We'll inspect your battery, cables, and terminals, to make sure your battery is ready for winter. We will also measure the voltage to determine it's expected life.

**Windshield Wipers and Headlights:** Worn blades are no match for driving rain or heavy snow. We'll check their viability and replace them with weather-appropriate wipers if necessary. You'll also need freeze-resistance fluid to keep your windshield clean. Visibility can be poor if headlights are not adjusted properly or if the lenses are foggy.

**Tires:** Are your treads worn? Is the pressure low which will make driving on slick roads dangerous? Will they provide the traction you

need on ice and snow? They may need to be replaced and if so, you may want to consider snow tires which provide the best traction, braking, and handling for winter driving. With their deeper and more flexible treads, snow tires remain pliable in cold weather which enables them to hold the road better, especially when Pittsburgh's winding roads and hills become ice-encrusted.

**Coolant:** Having the correct anti-freeze/water mixture is essential to prevent the fluid from freezing in your radiator. We'll check the radiator and heater hoses for cracking, leaking, or contamination from oil and grease. We'll check to determine if your vehicle need a flush.

**Exhaust System:** We'll look for carbon monoxide leaks which can be especially dangerous during cold-weather driving when windows are closed.

**Oil:** Winter driving can stress and damage your vehicle and having dirty

oil makes everything worse. Contaminants — small metal shavings that accumulate in the oil as it lubricates — can harm your engine over time. Do you need an oil change?

**Belts and Hoses:** Our ASE-certified mechanics will examine your vehicle's belts and hoses looking for cracks and wear, leaks, and lubrication. Cold temperatures weaken these items and hoses can become brittle and fail. We'll replace faulty parts.

**Brakes:** Your vehicle's stopping power needs to be at top capacity when you take your family on roads covered with snow, ice, and slush. If you hear a metal-against metal noise when brakes are applied, if the car pulls to the right or the left, if the brake pedal pulsates under normal driving, we need to inspect your brakes.

**The Solution:** Bring your vehicle to Chuck's so we can winterize your vehicles. We promise to take care of your vehicle the way we take care of cars that belong to our moms.

## *How To Survive in a Stranded Car*

Continued from page 1

are nausea, headaches, and dizziness.

If you have power windows do not roll them down because if the battery dies, you won't be able to close them again. This happened to one man we know and he was forced to hold his floormat in front of his open window overnight to block the wind.

Use gas sparingly. If you have a relatively full tank, run the engine for 10 minutes every hour to warm up. If you don't have much gas, run the engine one to two times a day for 10 minutes so your battery doesn't die and your fuel line doesn't freeze.

To maintain body heat, layer using any extra clothes or blankets you have in the car. Tuck your socks into your pants and your shirt into your gloves. Crumble up road maps, newspapers,

paper towels and napkins and put them beneath your clothes for insulation. If you are not alone, huddle together. Create a cocoon around you with whatever you have to stay warm. Move your body to increase circulation. Flex your fingers and toes, do arm and leg stretches.

If you are in a large vehicle, use a blanket to block unused space so your immediate area stays warm. Use whatever material is at your disposal.

Don't eat snow if you are thirsty as that will lower your body temperature. Use whatever you have to melt snow — a few matches or a candle. Melt small amounts at a time, don't pack too much in the container. A plastic grocery bag can hold snow. When your vehicle is on, hold the bag next to the vent to melt the snow.

# Chuck's Supports These Fine Charities!

**\$76,858 to MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION** to fulfill the wish of one dying or critically ill child every year since 2001 when Chuck's became a Corporate Sponsor.

**\$5,470 to DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, CHAPTER 76** helping ALL veterans.

**\$3,450 to OPERATION HOMEFRONT** which offers financial assistance, transitional housing and other programs to help military families in need.

**\$26,835 to FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS** for research on disease and degenerative vision conditions. Our creative niece Christie, who helps with our seasonal displays, has a progressive eye disease. Lynn walks to raise money and Chuck's is a corporate sponsor.

**\$22,225 to SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement)**. Chuck's is a Corporate Sponsor, donates for every new customer, and we participate in seasonal drives.

**\$5,575 to WOUNDED WARRIORS** which helps veterans who served 2001 to present.

**3056 phones to CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS** which recycles them to buy phone cards so soldiers serving overseas may call home for free.

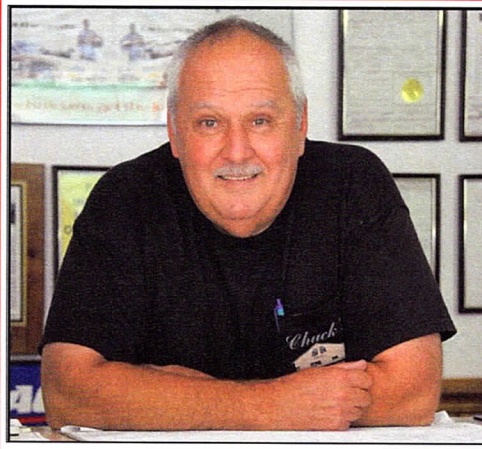
**1,164 pairs of your old prescription glasses to One Sight** which distributes them to people with vision loss in the U.S. and around the world.

**\$2,400 for TOYS FOR TOTS**

**\$12,780 to ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

*Thank you for helping us help them!*

*Chuck and Lynn*



## Some of Chuck's Best Tips!

When you do one thing for fifty-one years – service cars – you learn a thing or two. Here are some of my best little-known tips that I'm pleased to pass on to you.

Heavy keys on your keychain that dangle from your car's ignition could be damaging it. Gravity pulls those keys down and the ignition has to handle that weight around turns, over bumps and up and down hills. The tumblers in the ignition will begin to wear out and a worn tumbler will not be able to engage and turn the ignition lock. Experts disagree on how many keys are too many. You be the judge. If they feel heavy to you, they'll feel heavy to your ignition.

If your wipers are too noisy or tend to stick, wait for good weather and use a clean muslin cloth and white vinegar—nature's best cleanser—to clean your windshield and your wiper blades. Vinegar is great for removing dirt, grime, dust, and grease particles your windshield has collected. Ask us about quality windshield wiper blades that will protect your windshield from scratches or marks due to friction.

**Why we can't use the parts you bring in:** We like to save our customers


# What's NEW at Chuck's?

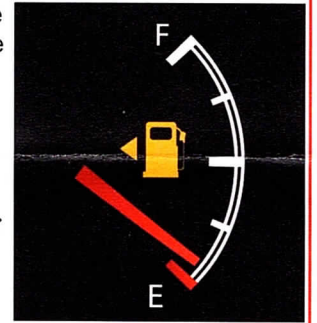
money, but because we guarantee our work, we use only new, quality parts that we can stand behind.

Did you know you could increase your car remote range by putting it under your chin? Your head becomes an antenna and will extend the key's wireless range by a few car lengths! Now that's using your head!

Gasoline prices are going up. Did you know aggressive driving can lower gas mileage by 33 percent on the highway? Quick starts and stops lower gas mileage by 5 percent in the city. Hauling an extra 100 pounds of unneeded items in the trunk reduces fuel economy up to two percent.

If you are in a rental car and don't remember which side of the car the gas tank is on, look at the gas pump icon on the dashboard.

Many cars have an arrow beside the little gas pump icon that points to where you'll find the tank. On this car,  the tank is on the driver's side!



## Winner of the FREE Oil Change!

**MATTHEW KARP of Bethel**

Call Chuck's! You've won a free oil change! Congratulations from all of us at Chuck's!

Copy this coupon and share it with family and friends!

**Chuck's**  
COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE  
412-831-2510

**\$8.00 OFF**  
**Any Oil Change**

75 McMurray Road  
Upper St Clair, PA 15241

*In Appreciation of our Valued Customers!*

Expires April 22, 2022

Not valid with any other offer

No cash value



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## Winter Fury: **The BOMB CYCLONE**

*"It seems to come out of nowhere!"*

*What is it and How to Survive It - Page 1*

## **How Chuck's Can Help! Page 2**

How you could be hurting your ignition-  
Chuck shares his Best Tips - Page 3

**Did you Win a FREE OIL CHANGE? Page 3**

## Bring your **NEW Vehicles to Chuck's for Service!** **Federal Consumer Law Protects Your Warranties**

The ASE-trained and certified mechanics at Chuck's are among the best in the business. They are eager to service your new cars with the high-quality and expert care they've been giving your older cars for years.

Because of a federal consumer protection law, the Magnuson-Moss Act, your new vehicle doesn't have to

be serviced at the dealership. The law allow you to take your new car for service anyplace you wish as long as quality products are used and the mechanics are well trained. Not many mechanics are as good as our Doug, Sean, or Vince. We'll certainly let you know if something should be taken care of at the dealership.

[www.chuckscompleteautoservice.com](http://www.chuckscompleteautoservice.com)

Email: [chucksappt@gmail.com](mailto:chucksappt@gmail.com)

Find Chuck's Complete Auto Service on Facebook

**412-831-2510**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Monday-Friday 8 am to 5:30 pm**

**Closed Saturdays and Sundays**



### **Coming in for a vehicle inspection?**

**Please bring your vehicle registration and insurance cards into the office or put them in the after-hours drop box with your keys.**

### **We Would Appreciate it!**

Your opinion means a lot to us. We'd like to ask you to leave a review on Google, Yelp, or Facebook if you are pleased with our service. If you are not pleased, let us know and we will address your concerns personally. Thank you!