

Wheels: Another e-mail states, "I am considering buying a new Crown Victoria Ford. Are the electronic traction control systems on these worth the extra \$750? This price also includes the anti-lock brakes. I suppose if it avoids 1 wreck, it is money well spent. But then again, it could be a waste of money if not needed. Will this make a significant difference in snow or would I be just as well to throw 200 lbs. of sand bags in the trunk? Only a small percentage of the most expensive Crown Victoria's have this feature. I was quite surprised that there are so many of the 28,000 Crown Victoria cars without this feature in Ohio. Thus far, I have been ruling out the car if it does not have this feature. Do you know if police cars have this in them? They seem to do well in ice and snow."

Halderman: I would recommend that you purchase the vehicle with ABS (anti-lock braking system) and traction control. I have driven a Mercury Marquis (a twin to the Crown Vic) in Utah in the snow and did not get stuck. The traction control worked very well and the ABS could help you in the event you have to steer around an object and brake at the same time. I believe that most police vehicles today are equipped with ABS brakes and traction control.

Have you considered a Mercury Marquis? As I mentioned before, this car is very similar and even the rental cars have ABS and traction control. The price may be similar and you may be able to locate a Mercury with these features easier than on a Ford. Good luck and enjoy your new car.

