

SMART DRIVER[®] October 2024

6 WAYS TO NAVIGATE WINTER DRIVING HAZARDS

Fall is here, and winter is not far behind. For most of the country, as road conditions and visibility worsen, parking lots and walkways become ice rinks, and the air fills with cold and flu viruses, the risk of vehicle crashes, work-related injuries, and lost work time due to illness increases with each. Now is the time to start preparing for these hazards to stay safe and healthy through the winter months.

Winter driving presents unique hazards that requires drivers to adjust their driving style to account for constantly changing conditions. Drivers must be able to recognize these winter hazards and apply the right defenses to prevent an accident. Read the information below and ask yourself if there are actions you can take to improve your driving skills and reduce the risk of a crash.

REDUCE THE RISK OF CRASH WITH THESE TIPS



OBSERVE THE PROPER SPEED FOR CONDITIONS

Reduce speed 2-3 mph (3-5 kms) below the flow of traffic, not to exceed the posted speed limit. Adjust speed if road conditions worsen.



REACT PROPERLY TO HAZARDS

Do not use cruise control on slippery or wet surfaces. Pull over if driving conditions become unsafe.



MAINTAIN PROPER FOLLOWING DISTANCE

Keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Add one second of following distance for each additional hazard present.



BE ATTENTIVE TO THE ROAD

Monitor weather forecasts for approaching storms. Watch traffic for signs of deteriorating road conditions. Make quick glances to mirrors, then return your focus to the road ahead.



AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Avoid distractions while driving, such as talking/texting on a phone, eating or drinking, gawking at passing crash scenes, or adjusting the radio or GPS.



CONDUCT A PRE-TRIP INSPECTION

Conduct a thorough pre-trip inspection. Clean mirrors, windows, lights, and reflectors at each stop or as needed. Keep extra windshield wipers and fluid on hand.



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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____

Driver's Signature: _____

Witness Name: _____

Date: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. You should keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. | True | False |
| 2. While driving you should talk/text on a phone, eat or drink and adjust the radio or GPS. | True | False |
| 3. You should clean mirrors, windows, lights, and reflectors at each stop or as needed. | True | False |

Answers:
1. True
2. False
3. True



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