

# SMART DRIVER<sup>®</sup>

December 2022

## WINTER IS COMING, ARE YOU READY?

Winter is upon us and 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 avoid business interruptions and keep everyone safe and healthy through the winter months.

The risk of a rear-end, and/or loss-of-control crash can increase with adverse conditions. As black ice, freezing rain, and snow make the roads more treacherous, be sure to recognize these hazards and take the appropriate precautions.

### INJURY PREVENTION

- Be sure to use non-skid footwear in general, in the shop, warehouse, and if working on or around the trucks.
- Always use three points of contact when entering and exiting equipment.
- Ensure pre-trip inspections include review of handlebars and stair platforms for slippery or icy conditions.
- Always ensure to take shorter steps and pay attention to where you are walking.
- Keep your hands free and out of your pockets in case of a fall.

### CRASH PREVENTION

- Always use good decision-making skills and avoid driving if road conditions are not appropriate or weather is adverse.
- Get plenty of rest so fatigue does not become a distraction.
- Always keep mirrors, windshield, and all lights clear from snow and ice.
- Pack water, healthy non-perishable snacks, and extra warm clothing for unexpected delays.
- Plan routes to avoid inclement weather and communicate with dispatch/terminal for weather updates if required.
- Always keep extra wiper fluid and antifreeze on hand.
- Follow proper speed, decrease speed as required, and increase following distance to avoid rear-end crashes.
- If the tractor and/or trailer begin to jackknife, disengage the clutch or shift to Neutral (if not done automatically) and steer in the direction of the skid. If necessary, drivers should counter steer until the vehicle straightens out and rolling traction resumes.

Remember, everyone plays a part in loss prevention.

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# Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Emp/Unit#: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. It's a good practice to review the condition of handlebars and stair platforms during pre-trip to ensure they are not icy or slippery.
2. Decrease speed and increase following distance to avoid rear-end crashes.
3. It's fine to drive away without clearing your mirrors, windshield and lights from snow and ice.
4. Keeping extra wiper fluid and antifreeze is optional in winter.

True

False

True

False

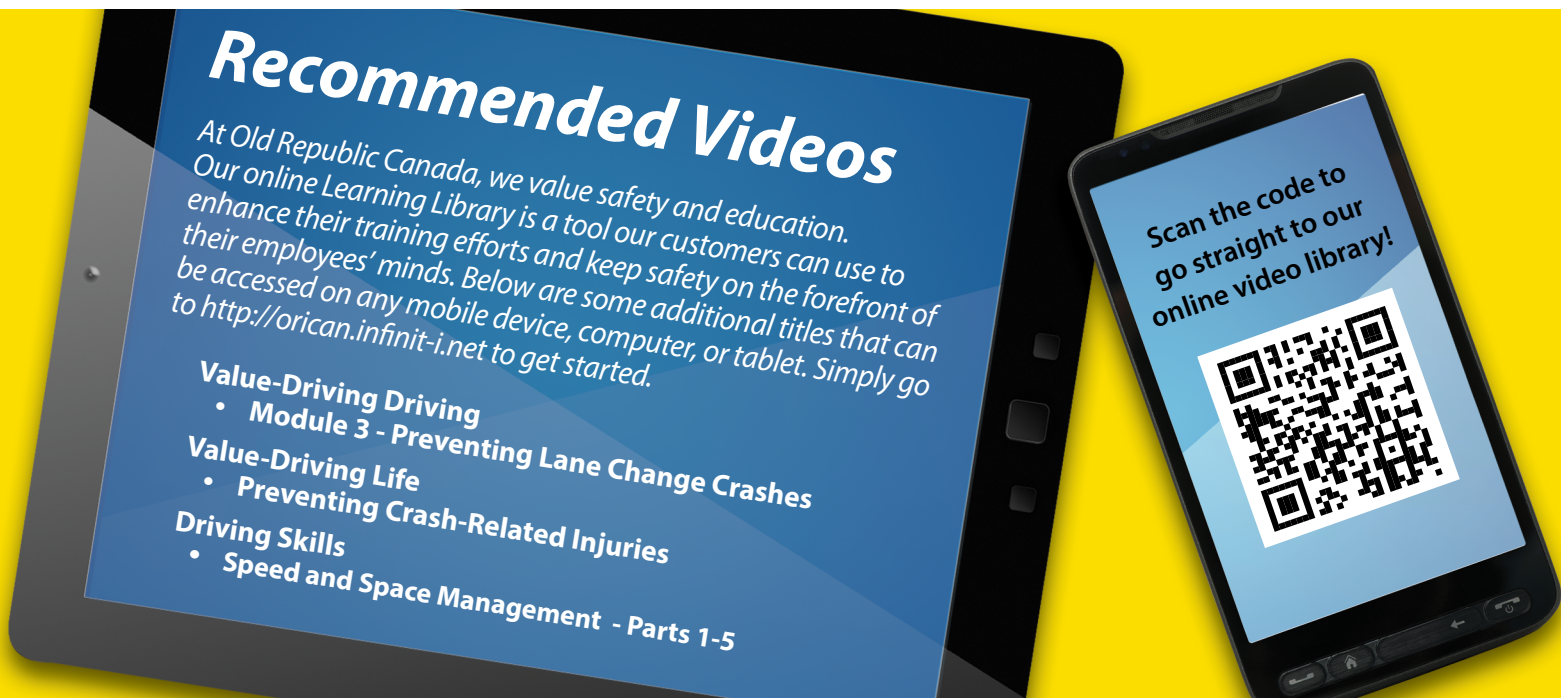
True

False

True

False

Answers:  
1. True  
2. True  
3. False  
4. False



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