

SMART DRIVER[®] November 2023

DRIVER SAFETY TIPS FOR ADVERSE CONDITIONS



In the course of every trip, truck drivers are faced with ever-changing conditions that could increase the risk of a vehicle accident. Weather, road construction, and traffic congestion are three factors that are outside of a truck driver's control, but they can take precautions to avoid these risks or take precautions to reduce the possibility of a loss. Read the information below and consider how you approach each of these hazards. When you are finished, complete the four review questions.

WEATHER

Weather and road conditions can change suddenly throughout the year. From high winds and torrential rain to blizzard conditions and black ice, drivers may face adverse conditions with little or no warning unless they are taking precautions ahead of time. Conducting a pre-trip vehicle inspection is essential to ensure all equipment is operating properly. Report any damages or defects immediately. Additionally, check weather reports and road closures before leaving and throughout your trip. And while driving, be sure to slow down and give yourself extra space to stop your truck safely. If conditions become unsafe to drive in, pull over in a safe location and park until conditions improve.

Be prepared for the change of seasons. Start by packing emergency supplies, including flares and reflective triangles in case you need to pull over on the shoulder. Also, be sure to dress appropriately. This can include packing extra clothing and proper footwear. And finally, get plenty of rest. Do not let fatigue or illness become a distraction while driving. If you need to rest, find a place to pull over and call your dispatcher.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Work zones can be dangerous. With merging lanes, traffic congestion, and construction equipment moving in and out of the roadway, the hazards can increase the risk of a vehicle accident. Avoid distractions and be mindful of road work signs and traffic pattern changes up ahead. Slow down well in advance of the work zone; workers and equipment may unexpectedly enter the roadway. Also, yield to other drivers who may need to merge into your lane. Practice patience and leave yourself plenty of room to stop your truck in time by increasing your following distance with the vehicle in front of you.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Plan your trips so you avoid increased traffic congestion whenever possible. Driving during rush hour may be unavoidable, but monitor traffic reports during stops. If an alternate route is available, try taking the road less traveled even if it adds a few minutes to your trip. With increased traffic congestion comes driver impatience, aggressive driving, and road rage. Always try to keep a cool head while driving and never take the actions of others personally. If you encounter another driver displaying road rage, do not engage them. Slow down and let that driver move on. If you feel threatened, pull over in a safe place and call the police.

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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____

Driver's Signature: _____

Emp/Unit#: _____

Date: _____

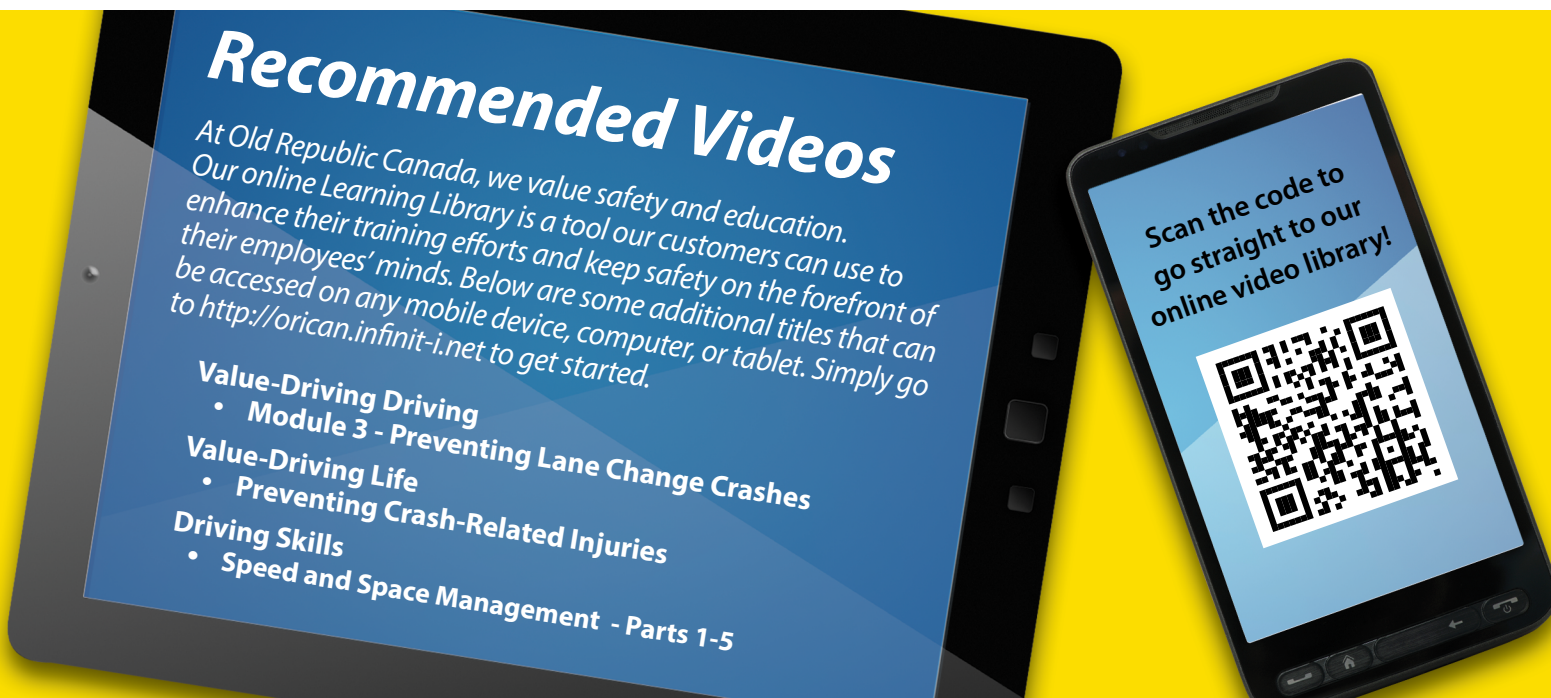
Witness Name: _____

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

1. If another driver is displaying road rage, do not engage that driver.
2. When entering a work zone, you should slow down and give yourself extra space to stop your truck in time.
3. Plan ahead for trips by monitoring weather and traffic reports.
4. In adverse driving conditions, slow down and give yourself plenty of space to stop the truck safely.

True	False
True	False
True	False
True	False

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



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