



Safe Driving Tips

Winter Driving

Winter brings some of the most challenging road conditions of the year. When weather conditions are less than ideal, first ask yourself if your trip is necessary. Sometimes delaying your trip for just a couple of hours will give snowplows a chance to clear the roads and might allow time for the temperature to rise enough to make a big difference in road conditions.

If you decide that conditions are satisfactory for driving, **reduce your speed and increase your following distance** to allow for a longer stopping distance. Even if you operate a four-wheel drive vehicle with new tires, snow can accumulate in the grooves, reducing your grip on the road surface.

After a heavy snowfall, plowed snow can obstruct your view, especially at intersections and driveways. Don't take chances. Stop then inch forward until you can see around the pile to check for oncoming traffic. Don't proceed until you are sure it is safe.

At intersections, make sure you scan ahead for vehicles approaching from a cross street because they may not be able to stop and might slide through the intersection. Also, turning vehicles may not be able to make the turn successfully and could slide into you. In light traffic, try to time your approach so you do not reach the intersection at the exact time as another vehicle.

Finally, make sure you are prepared for the worst by having the proper equipment in your car. The following are some items you might want in your vehicle, especially in winter conditions:

- Small bag of abrasive material such as sand, salt or kitty litter
- Small snow shovel
- Snow brush
- Ice scraper
- Flashlight
- Blankets
- Devices such as flares or triangles
- Jumper cables

Remember to store these items in your trunk to prevent them from becoming flying objects or interfering with the accelerator or brake pedals.

Drive Safely!



We teach *Driver Intelligence*