

WINTER WEATHER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

Winter is upon us, and in addition to all the general safe driving rules and securement requirements different conditions may require some additional thought:



- 1. Plan for weather:** Check current and expected conditions. Winter weather significantly increases travel time, so plan accordingly. Reschedule travel as needed for safety.
- 2. Prepare your vehicle:** Clear all snow and ice from windows, lights, sensors, and doorways. Ensure a full gas tank and working defrosters and heaters. Create areas for safe loading and unloading by removing snow and ice. Do not drive if visibility is obstructed.
- 3. Be cautious at exit/entry:** Use caution, especially between vehicles, as surfaces may be icy. Assist those who need help. Hold onto a vehicle, railing, or other stable surface while walking.
- 4. Reduce speed:** Snow and ice make roads unpredictable. Increase the following distance to 6-8 seconds. Vans are heavier than regular vehicles and require more time to slow down. Begin slowing down sooner than you think.
- 5. Accelerate/decelerate gradually:** Avoid sudden movements. Gentle acceleration and braking are crucial on slick surfaces.
- 6. Brake safely:** Increase the following distance and pay close attention to the road. If anti-lock brakes engage, maintain pressure on the pedal and focus on steering. Do not pump breaks. If you see other traffic in front of your vehicle, begin braking.
- 7. Anticipate hazards:** Assume roads are slippery and be prepared for unexpected stops. Other drivers may not see you and won't stop quickly enough. You cannot depend on others to anticipate hazards.
- 8. Dress warmly:** Ensure you and your passengers have appropriate winter clothing in case of delays.