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In the Safety Zone™

A newsletter dedicated to truck driver safety awareness.



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Use Extreme Caution While Driving In A Winter Wonderland

Many parts of the country have seen the first snowfall of the season. The landscape is painted beautifully with the pristine accumulation of white fluffy snowflakes. However, driving in this winter wonderland can be extremely dangerous. Underneath all the pretty white snow can be slick, icy, treacherous roadways. Many drivers will spend a long winter season in these conditions so it is important to be prepared. Following are winter driving tips to help keep you safe:

1. Physically prepare for wintry weather conditions.

It may be sunny outside when you leave for work but a snow storm can develop while you are traveling. Keep the following items in your vehicle during the winter season.

- ◆ A safety work boot with a good non-slip tread, several layers of warm clothing, extra gloves, a coat and rain gear.
- ◆ A flashlight, shovel, non-perishable food and water.
- ◆ Jumper cables, windshield scraper, windshield washer fluid, tire chains or traction mats.
- ◆ Ensure you always have a full tank of gasoline.

2. Drive defensively and cautiously.

- ◆ Slow down. Drive to match road conditions. Increase following distance so you have enough room to stop safely.
- ◆ Keep both hands firmly on the steering wheel to keep control of the vehicle on ice and during heavy winds.
- ◆ Brake and accelerate lightly to avoid locking your tires or spinning out of control.
- ◆ Watch out for black ice. If you are driving on wet roads during low temperatures, assume there is black ice.
- ◆ Elevated surfaces such as bridges and overpasses freeze first. Choose an alternate route if possible.
- ◆ If conditions deteriorate and it is no longer safe to continue driving, find a safe place to get off the roadways until snow plows can treat them and make them passable.

3. How do you stay safe if you are stranded or stuck in your vehicle?

- ◆ Engage your hazard lights. Put out triangles or other warning devices to make sure other vehicles see you.
- ◆ If you cannot see a safe place to seek assistance if you get stuck in a bad storm or if you slide off of the road, remain with your vehicle. It is easy to lose your sense of direction in a blinding storm.
- ◆ Put on several layers of clothing. Bundle up to stay warm.
- ◆ Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow. Open a window slightly for ventilation and to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ◆ Run your engine for only 10-15 minutes each hour.





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