

Environment aware:

Winter driving

Use this guide to help lead a discussion with employees to raise awareness about the hazards winter weather conditions bring to drivers and five key tips for safer seasonal driving. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

1 Reduce speed:

Remember that speed limits are designed for ideal conditions. In winter, road surfaces can be far from ideal due to snow and ice. Reduced traction between your vehicle's tires and the road makes it harder to grip, increasing the risk of skidding or sliding. Fog, sleet, and snow can limit visibility, making it difficult to see other vehicles, pedestrians, and road signs. Be prepared for longer braking distances on slippery roads. Watch out for hidden hazards like black ice, snow-covered potholes, and sudden snowdrifts.

2 Increase following distance:

Winter conditions can significantly extend the stopping distance for commercial trucks. A fully loaded truck traveling at 65 miles per hour needs about 600 feet to stop in dry conditions. However, snow and ice can make this distance much longer. It's crucial to adjust your following distance accordingly to ensure safe braking.

3 Avoid cruise control:

While cruise control is helpful for maintaining a steady speed on highways, it's not recommended during winter conditions. Slippery roads due to snow, ice, or cold temperatures can lead to skidding. If your vehicle starts to slide while on cruise control, it may continue accelerating, risking loss of control. In emergencies, quick responses like braking or reducing speed are crucial. Disengaging cruise control takes an extra step, and its constant speed may not suit changing winter road conditions (e.g., downhill slopes).

4 Prepare your vehicle and yourself:

Ensure your vehicle is prepared for winter conditions and be aware of chaining regulations in areas you may drive. Carry items like a snow shovel, broom, ice scraper, abrasive material (like sand or kitty litter), jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices. Also prepare yourself with a winter bag containing spare clothes, food, and water.

5 Stay with your vehicle in an emergency:

If you are stranded in wintry weather, remain with your vehicle, and don't overexert yourself. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your vehicle only sporadically—just long enough to stay warm.

Remember, safety is the priority when driving in winter weather. Always check the weather and road conditions before you go. Safe driving is no accident—it's a conscious effort made by responsible drivers. Have drivers commit to staying safe during the winter season.

For additional information related to driver safety, visit MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5

For further guidance, refer to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Winter Driving Tips (nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.

NationwideAgribusiness.com

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Toolbox Talk

Date: ____/____/____

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Discussion notes:
