

Adverse Weather Driving

OBJECTIVES: To increase respect for the hazards presented by adverse weather conditions. Although adverse weather increases the dangers of other road hazards, it does not cause the accident. It is the driver's responsibility to be prepared for these increased dangers during these conditions.

1. A thorough pre-trip inspection helps ensure that the equipment is in good condition to deal with adverse weather conditions.
2. Being prepared for weather- related emergencies is a sensible thing for the professional driver to do to avoid that extra down time.
3. As a professional driver, set a good example and use proper care in adjusting speed and following distance as conditions warrant.
 - NOTE: Where you were maintaining a buffer distance of at least one vehicle length for every 10 mph during normal weather conditions, this distance is doubled during adverse weather and at night.
4. Where the road is covered with ice and snow, it is good practice to reduce speed and increase following distances - and be prepared to stop.

Other Road Hazards: Adjust speed and space cushion!

1. Use extra caution when approaching bridges, railroad crossings, underpasses, blind intersections, and off ramps – Black ice can be present at 40 degrees or less.
2. Traveling too slowly on banked curves could lead to a sideways slide off the road. Experience in dealing with proper speed is the professional driver's responsibility.
3. Black ice conditions may exist in shaded areas (at 40 degrees or less due to wind chill factor), and warrant special precautions by avoiding lane changes or sudden increases of power that can result in a jackknife.
4. When running empty or bobtail, avoid sudden stops, as this may lock up your wheels during braking. This may lead to a jackknife during adverse wet weather.
5. When driving in dense fog, never drive faster than you can see to react to other motorists. Use 4-way flashers where appropriate.