

Safety Briefing for December 2025

Driving in Winter Weather

Winter weather contributes to many driver fatalities every year. One of the leading causes of death during the winter months is from automobile or other transportation accidents. Many accidents could be avoided if drivers took time to learn and practice a few tips for driving safely during snowy and icy conditions.

Drivers of vehicles with air brakes must take care to protect their air supply in freezing weather. A brake line freeze can be annoying and dangerous. Many newer trucks are equipped with synthetic air lines, so the old solution of melting the ice with a fuse or torch is no longer a quick solution. If the vehicle is not equipped with an air dryer or other means of automatically expelling water and other contaminants from the air tanks, the driver must take the time to manually drain the air tanks every day.

The lighting systems of vehicles become especially important during the winter months. Nights are longer and visibility is often reduced by bad weather. Electrical systems are winter-sensitive. Approximately 80 percent of all light bulb failures are due to environmental reasons. Drivers must inspect their lights more often during the winter and clean them when necessary so they can see and be seen by other highway users.

Perhaps the deadliest danger of all is "black ice." Black ice is ice that forms on roadways, usually due to snow melting and refreezing. Since it is almost invisible, drivers fail to recognize black ice conditions and may drive at normal speeds, often resulting in very serious accidents. Always be alert to the possibility of black ice when temperatures are near or below freezing. Pavement that looks dry but appears darker in color and dull-looking should alert you to the presence of black ice.

There are many precautions that can be taken to ensure your safety while driving in winter weather. Certainly, speed is a factor in winter accidents. Many accidents can happen simply because the driver is going too fast. Speed limits are carefully selected to minimize the chances of accidents. But during icy, rainy, foggy, or snowy conditions, pay particular attention to your vehicle's speed, as posted speed limit signs may be excessive for winter driving conditions. The slower you go, the less distance it will take to stop. Taking into account the posted speed limit and adverse driving conditions is one sure way to reduce your chance of a winter accident.

Here are some other tips for driving safely in winter weather:

- ❑ Always wear your seatbelt.
- ❑ Failing to allow enough time to stop is a major cause of winter driving accidents.
- ❑ Driving at a slower speed, anticipating stops at traffic lights and intersections.
- ❑ Applying the brakes sooner than normal will help ensure accident-free stops.
- ❑ When braking, brake carefully with short, rapid application of the brakes.
- ❑ Always turn on your headlights during adverse weather conditions. It is important to see and be seen.
- ❑ Use extra caution when passing over bridges, as they may freeze before the road does.
- ❑ Prepare your vehicle: check fluid levels, tire pressure, lights, and the battery.
- ❑ Remember that driving in winter weather conditions causes physical and mental fatigue and reduces reaction times. Don't drive if you are on medication that causes drowsiness.
- ❑ Emergency kit: clothing, blankets, traction material such as sand or kitty litter, tire chains, a small shovel, a first aid kit, a flashlight, jumper cables, and a bright cloth to use as a flag.

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SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

TOPIC: Driving in Winter Weather

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____

Employees present:

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Safety Briefing for November 2025

Topic: Stopping & Parking

Introduction: Several accidents have occurred that have resulted in life-threatening injuries. Each accident could have been avoided had the driver paid attention to his own safety and placed emergency triangles out appropriately to attract the attention of oncoming traffic.

Braking Rules:

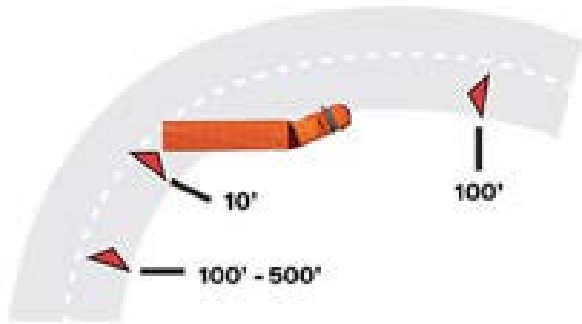
Break early and gradually. Applying brakes as soon as possible makes for smoother stops, better control, less wear and tear on the vehicle, and cooler brakes. It also makes your actions more predictable. Break in a straight line. Breaking on a Bend is dangerous due to the risk of skidding or overturning and should only be done in an emergency. Allow enough time to stop based on the size of your load. When your vehicle is fully loaded, it requires far more braking effort to slow down or stop, so you will have to leave more braking distance. When your vehicle is empty or lightly loaded, braking stability is reduced, and chances of wheel lock-up and skids are increased. Be prepared! Always adjust your braking technique to suit the road surface, allow extra braking distance, and brake more gently if the road surface is unpaved or slippery. Ease off as the vehicle slows because it takes less braking effort to continue slowing at the same rate. If not, the vehicle will come to an abrupt stop and could lock the wheels in slippery conditions. You want a smooth stop. Account for wet brakes due to inclement weather. Always test your brakes after going through deep water.

Stopping:

Avoid making stops on the road unless necessary. If it is necessary, do the following: ensure the ground conditions are acceptable for the weight of your rig, pull over as far as possible so that you are entirely off the highway, and turn on your hazards immediately. Use your safety triangles! You will want to set out your emergency triangles within the first 10 minutes. Ensure the reflective side is facing oncoming traffic. You should place your reflective triangles: one 100 feet in front of your vehicle, one about 10 feet from the rear, and one about 100 feet from the rear of the vehicle.

Emergency Triangles:

Emergency triangles must be placed within 10 minutes of stopping and should be kept in the passenger side box so they can be accessed in a way that keeps the driver away from traffic. Triangle placement locations may vary based on the location a driver stops and are spaced out to ensure that other motorists can see a stopped truck from a distance that still allows for a change in lanes or a slowing of speed.



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Safety Briefing for October 2025

Topic: LUMBER STACKER SEVERELY INJURED – SLIPS, TRIPS, FALLS

Background

The lumber stacker worked on a green chain, stacking various-sized boards and stacking them in appropriate stacks. On the particular day of the incident, he stacked 1" x 6" poplar of various lengths.

Personal Characteristics

The lumber stacker was 19 years old. He worked for one month, and the employer stated he was a good employee and considered him fully trained. All personal protective equipment was worn.

Accident

The individual worked at the end of the out feed on the right side of the green chain. As the individual walked around the end of the green chain to go stack lumber on the left side, he stepped onto a 6" x 6" cant. His foot slipped, causing him to twist his ankle and fall into a rotating shaft on the end of the green chain. As the individual fell, his cotton work shirt wrapped around the shaft, and it pulled him into a 6" diameter chain and sprocket.

Injury

The employee received a broken ankle, a broken leg, knee injuries, a compound fracture in the right arm, and head trauma. He underwent surgery and is still undergoing treatment for his injuries. His lost duty time will be large due to recovery. No equipment or machines were damaged.

Unsafe Acts Or Conditions

1. He had loose clothing around moving mechanical parts. He failed to keep his shirt tucked in.
2. He walked on a cant and failed to recognize slip/trip/fall hazards. He failed to walk around the cants or use proper crossovers.
3. The rotating shaft was not completely guarded

Recommendations

1. Individuals working around mechanical equipment should always secure loose clothing.
2. Individuals should use proper crossovers and avoid slip/trip/fall hazards.
3. Employers must guard rotating shafts that create hazards, especially in walkway areas.
4. Keep walkways free of trash and debris.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN SAFETY !!!!!