



Toolbox Talk

Driving in Snow and Ice

Whether you're a pro or an amateur at driving in snow and ice, two things make the difference between arriving or not. First are the prevailing conditions: do you recognize them and drive accordingly? Second is your vehicle (equipment).

Recognizing how to drive under prevailing conditions is important. Snow and ice conditions require a slower rate of travel. It is better to arrive late than not at all. Allow yourself more travel time.

The skid is one of the main driving hazards in snow and ice. The best advice is to go slow in anticipation of changing road conditions. It is much better to avoid the situation by judicious use of defensive driving techniques than to have to suddenly react to a skid happening to you.

If you go into a skid while driving a front wheel drive vehicle, steer in the direction you wish to go to regain control of the vehicle. You should go in the direction of the skid, if you are driving a rear wheel drive vehicle.

Stopping Distance Examples

Conditions	Stopping Distance at 20 MPH
Dry Pavement	17 feet
Glare Ice at 25° F (Regular Tires)	149 feet
Glare Ice at 25° F (Snow Tires)	151 feet
Glare Ice at 25° F (Studded Snow Tires)	20 feet
Glare Ice at 25° F (Reinforced Tire Chains)	75 feet

Good driving technique and equipment combined can avoid the majority of hazards related to snow and ice driving. Snow tires, studded snow tires and reinforced tire chains can provide the needed traction to avoid many hazards. In many cases, these devices are the only way the vehicle will move at all. However, it is important to note that these devices can give an inexperienced or unwary driver a false sense of security. The driver must still drive slowly using sound driving techniques.

The condition of the vehicle is extremely important. Check the anti-freeze in the radiator, condition of the windshield wipers, exhaust system and defroster and heater. These are all important for winter driving.



Additional items to carry in your vehicle that may prove beneficial in an emergency are:

- A small shovel
- Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Ice scraper
- Traction devices that fit the vehicle's tires
- Tarp (lay out when installing the traction devices)
- Flares
- Warm and waterproof spare clothing (including boots, gloves and hat)
- Snacks and water
- Blanket

