

Prepare for adverse road conditions

Many crashes occur under adverse driving conditions. Drivers can reduce the risks associated with driving in poor conditions. How? By being aware of the amount of traction they have, adjusting vehicle speed and position to maximize visibility, and by increasing the time and space needed to react appropriately. Whether it is a short trip or a cross-country trip, each driver should be vigilant about safe and responsible driving.

Important safety tips for driving during adverse conditions

- **Allow more time to travel.**

Resist the temptation to drive faster. Allow extra time not only for the reduced speeds, but for potential problems on the road.

- **Maintain more space.**

Increase your margin of safety. Don't tailgate! Maintain a minimum of 8 to 10 seconds in following distance.

- **Drive with your lights on.**

This will allow others to see you at almost twice the distance that they would normally see you. Earlier detection will help other drivers avoid hitting you.

- **Look well ahead.**

To compensate for the greater distances required for stopping when driving on slippery surfaces, focus your attention as far ahead as possible. If possible, focus at least 20 to 30 seconds ahead of your current position.

- **Anticipate problems.**

On slick surfaces, any abrupt maneuver will increase the probability of losing vehicle control. Skids can best be avoided by anticipating lane changes, turns and curves, and patches of poor road conditions. Avoid skidding by slowing down in advance, and by making smooth, precise movements of the steering wheel.

- **Wear safety belts.**

Wear your safety belt properly every time you get into a vehicle. Be sure all children are adequately and properly secured.

- **Be prepared.**

Avoid driving while fatigued. Have tire treads, brakes, and wipers checked regularly. Also have emergency equipment such as flares, cellular telephones, and drinking water available.

- **Slow down.**

Your car needs about three times more space to stop on slick road surfaces. Roads can become slick and dangerous after a rainfall, from fallen leaves, ice and snow, and from road debris or loose gravel.

- **Be aware.**

Be aware of upcoming lane changes, traffic signals, curves, road work areas, and pedestrians. Being aware of upcoming situations will help the driver avoid the need to brake aggressively which may increase the chance of losing control of the vehicle.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS TO YOUR MANAGER IMMEDIATELY

The information used to create this brochure was obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Nationwide/Allied, its affiliates and employees do not guarantee improved results based upon the information contained herein and assume no liability in connection with the information or the provided safety suggestions. The recommendations provided are general in nature, unique circumstances may not warrant or require implementation of some or all of the safety suggestions. There may be additional available safety procedures that are not referenced in this brochure.

