



Safe Driving In Winter Conditions

Tis the season for icy, snow covered roads. Driving in adverse weather conditions can be extremely dangerous to even the most experienced driver. Inclement weather is responsible for approximately 25% of all speeding related truck driving accidents on the road. When bad weather approaches, you should cut down your speed by one half in snow or icy conditions, and if you see other truckers pulling over, it's probably time you do so as well. A true professional driver should know when conditions aren't safe and it's time to "get off the road". **SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST!!**

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

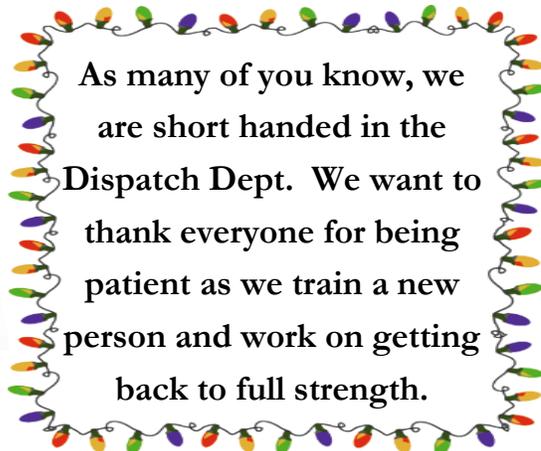
- * Ice on your windshield means ice on the road. A small amount of ice on the roads can quickly become a thick problem.
- * Don't follow too closely. Stopping takes much longer on snowy and icy roads. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. You should always have enough space and time to move out of harm's way.
- * Brake & accelerate lightly. Try not to do anything forcefully in bad weather as this reduces your chance of locking your tires and spinning out of control.
- * Watch for black ice! Black ice is a dangerous road condition. It's a thin layer of transparent ice and sometimes makes the road look slightly wet. Black ice is difficult to spot, so when the temperature gets close to freezing, look for these small clues:
 - * Ice build-up on a trucks mirror arms, antennas, or the top corners of the windshield.
 - * The spray from tires on vehicles in front of you will stop.
- * Use extra caution when approaching bridges. Elevated structures, such as bridges and highway overpasses, usually freeze first and many are not treated with ice/snow melt materials like the rest of the road.
- * Hold your steering wheel firmly. Sudden, sharp moves can quickly cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Keep the truck steady through ruts in the road, heavy wind and on ice. Keep both hands on the wheel.
- * DON'T crowd the plow! Keep well behind snowplows as the drivers can't see directly behind their trucks. Know where the snowplow is on multi-lane highways ... on the shoulder or in one of the lanes. Never drive through a snow cloud or whiteout conditions, as you can't be sure if such conditions are caused by crosswinds or by a snowplow.



- * Prepare a Cold Weather Survival Kit to keep in your truck including the following ... a shovel, windshield scraper, flashlight & batteries, food including energy bars, road salt/sand/or cat litter for traction, hand & foot warmers, extra hats, socks and mittens, first aid kit with pocket knife, blankets or sleeping bag, any necessary medications, booster cables, extra coolant/washer fluid/engine oil, flares and a whistle to attract attention.



Rick Bryant
... is the lucky winner of the gift certificate this month for turning in his signed newsletter.



I have read and understand the above information regarding "Safe Driving in Winter Conditions".

Signature

Date

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year!!

