



WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

Winter is just around the corner. With it comes all of the truck driving hazards associated with the onset of this season. Preparing yourself for winter weather well in advance if its arrival will reduce the stress of this driving season. Winter weather and driving in snow and ice is difficult. It tests the skills of every driver. There are three core issues connected with operating a commercial motor vehicle in winter weather conditions ... **Limited Traction, Limited Visibility, Personal Safety** (staying warm & uninjured). Here are some tips to follow to help manage these issues.

Limited Traction -

- * Slow down!! And keep extra following distance, which allows extra time to maneuver and avoid other drivers & vehicles.
- * Drive smoothly with no sudden starts or stops. Remember a sliding wheel will try to take the lead and is what leads to most slick road jack-knives.
- * Be extra careful when temperatures are in the 32-40 degree range, as black ice can form quickly & the roads will actually look wet. Bridges & overpasses will be the first to ice over.
- * **Know your route and exits** - since you may not see the road or exit you need before it's too late.



Limited Visibility -

- * Make sure wiper blades are functional, all glass/mirrors cleaned. These should also be cleaned at every stop. If equipped, make sure heated mirrors are working, make sure headlights tail/turn lights are cleaned off of snow/ice/salt and operational.
- * Carry extra fluids, especially wiper fluid.
- * Be certain all hoses and belts are in good condition to prevent breaking down and being on the side of the road in the cold, where other vehicles may not see you.



Personal Safety -

- * Make sure any steps and grab handles are clean, secure and dry to avoid slipping. Also be aware of any untreated parking lots and sidewalks.
- * Dress for the weather. Stay dry and wear layers of clothing.
- * Keep the cab comfortable but not too warm or too cold to assure you are alert when driving.
- * Carry a winter survival kit that includes: flashlight & extra batteries; non-perishable food & water; extra warm clothes & snow boots; extra blankets; charger for cell phone; first aid kit; and a snow broom & ice scraper.



With winter weather approaching, you need to plan for weather related issues. This may mean leaving earlier to beat a storm, to parking overnight in an area you can get out of if it snows, to managing your drive time if traveling in hazardous conditions.

Please always keep an eye on the weather and plan accordingly.

I have read and understand the above information regarding "WINTER WEATHER SAFETY".

Signature

Date

Wendell Roberts

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

