



Topic: Safe Driving in Wintery Conditions

General Safety Tips

- Vehicles are harder to control or stop on slick or snow-covered surfaces. Adjust your speed accordingly.
- Increase the distance between vehicles to 8–10 seconds. Extra space gives you more time to stop or react.
- Leave room for snowplows and road maintenance vehicles. These vehicles often swing wide, overlap lanes and stop frequently.
- Use smooth, deliberate inputs when driving. Harsh braking or rapid acceleration may cause loss of traction.
- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions. Random acceleration on slippery roads may cause loss of control.
- If your vehicle begins to skid, steer in the direction of the skid to help the tires regain traction.
- Be sure to clear your vehicle of snow and ice prior to driving.
- Use caution when exiting a vehicle. Slips often occur when stepping out onto snow or ice.
 - Check the ground before exiting.
 - Step out with both feet simultaneously.
 - Hold the door for balance.
 - Maintain three points of contact.

Topics to Discuss

- Deciding when weather and road conditions may warrant delaying or canceling travel.
- Recognizing when driving conditions have become unsafe and knowing when to pull off and wait.
- Priorities when a vehicle becomes stalled or stuck in winter conditions.
- Making a disabled vehicle visible (i.e. hazard lights) to other drivers and emergency responders.
- Carbon monoxide risks when stopped or stranded and how to reduce exposure.
- Importance of winter trip readiness beyond normal driving skills.
- Contents of a winter survival kit and when it becomes critical.
- Ensure your vehicle is adequate for travel in wintery conditions.

Resources

For more information about this topic, visit:

- [Winter Vehicle Survival Checklist](#)
- [Winter Weather Housekeeping](#)
- [Working and Traveling Off Premises](#)
- [OSHA.gov](#)



Safety in Five

Topic: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

Meeting Organizer: _____

Organization Name

Items Discussed:

Problem Areas or Concerns:

Attendees (Names/Signatures):

Comments: