

MARCH 2019 TARP

WINTER & WORK ZONE DRIVING TIPS

Top 10 Winter Truck Driving Tips

1. **Make sure your vehicle is in good condition before each trip.** Clean all snow and ice from your vehicle; check wiper blades and fluid, tires and lights.
2. **Carry a winter driving kit.** Stock it with proper clothing, flashlight and batteries, non-perishable food and water, first aid kit including required prescriptions.
3. **Start a little slower, drive a little slower.** Compensate for poor traction by increasing following distance, driving slower and making all changes gently.
4. **Brake and accelerate slowly.** Avoid sudden stops and starts in icy or rainy weather.
5. **Give yourself extra space in front and behind.** Normal following distances should be increased 8-10 seconds when driving on icy, slippery surfaces.
6. **Take evasive action to avoid road hazards and collision.** In slick conditions, sudden braking can lead to loss of control. Gently decelerating and steering around obstacles is better than braking alone.
7. **Hold your steering wheel with confidence and control.** Grip your steering wheel steadily and with a strong arm through ruts in the road, heavy winds and on ice.
8. **Watch carefully for black ice.** Shaded spots, bridges, and overpasses and intersections are areas where ice is likely to form first or be the most slippery.
9. **Be extra cautious when driving in the mountains.** Mountain weather in winter can be severe and can change rapidly.
10. **If you do find yourself in a skid:** Depress the clutch fast, look at the left mirror only, steer and counter steer as fast as you can to get back in front of the trailer, keep fighting it until you regain control.

Top 10 Work Zone Safety Tips

1. **Expect the unexpected:** Work zone traffic delays can occur at any time of the day or night, often without warning.
2. **Slow Down:** Speeding is one of the leading causes of work zone related crashes
3. **Don't Tailgate:** keep a safe following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. The most common crash in highway work zones is the rear end collision.
4. **Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the construction workers and their equipment:** barrels or barriers often restrict the lanes giving less margin for error.
5. **Pay attention to the signs:** The warning signs are there to help traffic move safely through the work zone. Observe and follow the posted signs.
6. **Obey road crew flaggers:** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone.
7. **Stay alert and minimize distractions:** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.

8. **Keep up with the traffic flow:** Merge as soon as possible, don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try to barge in.
9. **Do an adequate pre-trip and pre-plan:** know your equipment is in good working condition and make sure you check and plan your travel route
10. **Stay patient and remain calm:** work zones are not there to personally inconvenience you – they are there to improve the road and make your job easier.

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