



DRIVER SAFETY IN SEVERE WEATHER

→ HOW TO HELP YOU DRIVE SAFER DURING SEVERE WEATHER

General Safety Precautions

- Always turn on your headlights.
- Check your tires prior to severe weather striking. Check for proper inflation and proper tread depth.
- Slow down and follow at a safe distance.
 - During severe weather, following distances should be doubled or tripled as compared to normal driving.
- Pay attention to what is going on in front of you on both sides of the road.
- Never use cruise control or overdrive during severe weather.
- Allow more time to get to your destination.
- Make sure all your safety equipment is in good working order (i.e.: headlights, windshield wipers, brakes, defroster, tires).
- If traffic lights are not operating, treat intersections as if they have stop signs posted on every corner.
- Tune in your radio to stay informed of weather updates.
- Don't be distracted while driving in severe weather (or anytime).

Weather Specific Safety Tips

SNOW AND ICE

- If you don't have to go out, stay at home. Allow road crews to do the job of getting the roadways clear.
- Make sure you have plenty of gas prior to a snow or ice storm striking.
- [Remember to remove all snow and ice](#) from all windows and windshields so that you can see 360 degrees around the vehicle. Also, remove snow from your roof top.
- Never try to pass sand/plow trucks.
- Remember to steer in smooth, precise movements to prevent skidding or losing control.



- Keep an ice scraper with a brush in your car in case it snows or sleet while you are out. Check your wiper fluid/de-icer.
- Be extra careful on bridges and overpasses as they may freeze before the roadways and overpasses as they may freeze before the roadways

WIND, RAIN, OR FLOODS

- Watch for standing water in the roadways.
- Slow down and steer smoothly.
- Never try to cross a flooded roadway. The average automobile can be swept off the roadway in 12 inches of moving water. Roadways that are subjected to moving water can also collapse.
- If you should come across a flooded street, take an alternate route.
- Obey highway signs and road closed signs. They were placed for your safety.
- High winds can cause a vehicle to overturn. Reduce your speed.



DRIVING IN FOG

Although fog may not be considered severe weather, there are times when dense fog can be a risk to drivers.

- Reduce speed and turn on headlights.
- Do not use high beams, parking lights, or emergency flashers.
- Always use low beams. If you have fog lights, use them in addition to low beams. It is illegal to use only fog lights.
- Use the right edge of the road – not the center line - as a guide.
- Never stop in the roadway. If you must stop, pull well onto the shoulder.
- Use defroster and wipers in foggy conditions.
- Remember that driving in fog is worse at night, so use extra caution.
- If possible, avoid driving until fog lifts.

Precautions for all driving

- Buckle Up.
- Avoid distractions (cell phones, eating, vehicle controls, pets, etc.)
- Share the road.
- Drive sober. Don't drink and drive.
- Slow speed. Obey the speed limits.
- Don't run red lights.

(Information updated March 2026)