



Winter Weather



Fact Sheet

Do your part to keep our highways safe this winter by planning ahead and always driving according to weather and road conditions. And travel safely around snowplows to make it easier for maintenance crews to clear snow and ice from our roads as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When Visibility Turns Bad - Driving in Blowing Snow and Whiteouts

ALWAYS:

- ❖ Slow down gradually and drive according to weather and road conditions.
- ❖ Make sure the full lighting system of your vehicle is turned on.
- ❖ Increase your following distance. You will need extra distance to brake safely.
- ❖ Keep looking as far ahead as possible to see any hazards that may be on the road.
- ❖ Reduce the distractions in your vehicle. Your full attention is required at all times.
- ❖ Keep your windows and mirrors clean. Use the defroster and windshield wipers to maximize your vision.
- ❖ Stay off the road when visibility and weather conditions are poor.

NEVER:

- ❖ If visibility is decreasing rapidly, do not stop on the road. Look for an opportunity to pull into a safe parking area and wait for conditions to improve.
- ❖ Attempt to pass a vehicle moving slowly or speed up to get away from a vehicle that is following too closely.

REMEMBER:

- ❖ Watch your speed. You may be going faster than you think. If you are, reduce your speed gradually.
- ❖ Leave a safe braking distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- ❖ Remain calm and patient.
- ❖ If you become stuck or stranded in severe weather, stay with your vehicle for warmth and safety until help arrives.
 - Slightly open a window for ventilation.
 - Run your engine sparingly.
 - Use your emergency flashers.
- ❖ Be prepared and carry a winter survival kit in your vehicle that includes items such as a flashlight, warm blankets, extra clothing, winter boots, and non-perishable energy foods. A candle and matches can generate heat and keep you warm while waiting for help if you do become stranded.

Before you drive and during your trip, check weather forecasts and road reports regularly. If there is a weather warning or reports of poor visibility and driving conditions, delay your trip until conditions improve or postpone it if you need to.