Winter Driving Campaign 2013

Make sure you’re ready with our safer driving and winter preparation guide
Whatever the reason for travelling, plan your journey **thoroughly**.

Plan your route and leave **extra time** to account for slower conditions.

Keep an eye on **weather forecasts**, reports and warnings before and during travel.

Let people know your **route of travel** and estimated arrival time.

Use **main roads** where you can.

If conditions are **severe**, avoid driving where possible.

If visibility is **hazardous**, postpone your journey.

Leave the car at home if you’re **tired** or plan on having a drink.

**Charge** your mobile phone in case you need to pull over and make a call.
Make sure your tyres are in **appropriate condition** for your journey.
- Is the **tread depth** at least 2mm?
- Make sure they don’t have any **major cuts** or damage.
- Keep them **well inflated**.
- **Check** them weekly or at each fuel top-up.
Don’t get caught out by the cold weather – give your vehicle a thorough check before Winter kicks in.

- Give your **electric**s a once-over: battery, ignition, lights.
- Check your **brakes**.
- Make sure your **wipers** work effectively and the blades are undamaged.
- Check all **fluid levels** in the vehicle and keep them topped up.
- Keep your **fuel tank** topped up, particularly on longer journeys.
A list of essential items to help you cope with winter driving.

- Ice scraper
- De-icer
- Sturdy walking shoes
- Blanket
- Bottles of water
- Salt
- Hi-vis jacket
- Shovel
WET CONDITIONS.

50% of all reported road traffic collisions happen at night in WET CONDITIONS.

Accidents between 3PM & 6PM increase by a third throughout winter.

DID YOU KNOW?
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In winter 2011-2012 we recorded 18 driving-related accidents.

In winter 2012-2013 we recorded 23 driving-related accidents.
MEASURES

For driving in severe weather

- Before setting off, clean all your windows and windscreen and ensure all lights are working.
- To improve visibility in snow or rain, drive with dipped headlights.
- Only use fog lights where visibility is less than 100 metres.
- Brake before you go around corners.
- Drive in a higher gear than usual.
Tips for keeping your distance.

- Where possible, **brake** in a straight line.
- Brake gently but earlier than usual so your **brake lights** warn drivers behind you.
- Don’t underestimate stopping time in **slippery** conditions.
- Always leave **two car lengths** minimum between you and the driver in front.
- **Double** this gap in wet conditions, and **quadruple** it in snow and ice.
If the worst happens...

- Try and keep track of your whereabouts.
- If you must leave your vehicle, find a safe place to stand away from the traffic flow.
- On motorways it’s always better to leave your vehicle with the wheels turned towards the verge and stand a short distance behind and to the side of it.

Ring the Road Fleet helpline on 0845 600 6767
DRIVING ADVICE

For more detailed winter driving advice, visit:
www.brake.org.uk

For general road safety tips, visit:
http://think.direct.gov.uk
LEAVING THE VEHICLE

Slips, trips and falls are much more likely to happen in the winter months.

We reported 107 AND 81 in Winter 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Don’t rush your journeys
Be extra careful when entering or exiting your vehicle
Wear appropriate footwear for the weather conditions
Our accident rates are higher in winter, so anything we can do to prevent accidents before they happen is vital to improving safety.

If you see a **Close Call**, report it on **01908 723500** or alert your line manager. You could be saving yourself or a colleague from serious injury. The more information we provide, the safer our industry will be.
We want everyone to have a **fun** and **relaxing** festive period, but please do so with safety in mind and follow our **zero tolerance** approach to Drugs and Alcohol.

For more information please visit:  
www.safety.networkrail.co.uk/DA