



# FALL AND WINTER DRIVING TIPS

The warm days of summer have passed into fall, with winter close behind. Now is a good time to remind ourselves of the hazards that these seasons present to drivers and some possible steps we might take to lessen the chance of having a motor vehicle crash.

- Check the weather. If conditions are hazardous on the road due to stormy weather, stay off the road if at all possible.
- Leave more time. Road conditions may be less favorable this time of year. Leave early and avoid having to rush.
- Make sure you can see. Clear all windows of ALL frost, ice, snow, or anything else that reduces your ability to see completely around your vehicle.
- Clean your headlights. Dirty headlights significantly reduce their ability to illuminate the roadway. Clean any surface grime off that may reduce your chance to light your way ahead.
- Go slower after dark. There are far fewer hours of daylight this time of year. Night driving makes it more difficult to see hazards around you, and many times, drivers may be operating faster than headlights provide visibility to see and to be able to brake safely.
- Watch the road surface. Be aware that wet leaves, snow, ice, sand or other materials can reduce traction and increase your chances of sliding.
- Sun's no fun. Be cautious in early morning / late afternoon driving situations where the angle of the sun can make it difficult to see. Clean windshields, properly adjusted sun visors and sunglasses can make a big difference.
- Give yourself an out. Leave more room between you and the car ahead of you to avoid a collision if someone else stops quickly or loses control.
- Ice isn't nice. Beware of black ice. As temperatures get cooler, wet roads can quickly become icy roads with little warning. Test your traction from time to time if the temperature is dropping near the freezing mark.
- Freeze warning. Remember that bridges, culverts or other road structures that are open underneath will freeze more quickly than the surround road surfaces. Slow down and use caution when approaching them.
- Don't be distracted. Driving this time of year requires all of your concentration. Cell phones, texting or other distractions could divert your attention when you need it most.
- Wear your seatbelts! They save lives and minimize injuries.

