



RISK REMINDER

December 2023

Name: _____ Company: _____

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Truck driving in winter can be challenging, especially when the weather is bad due to more 'stop time' required, poor visibility, poor traction and the increased unpredictability of other drivers on the road. Snow, ice, and freezing temperatures can make the roads treacherous. As we approach another winter season, we'd like to share some best practices for safe winter driving.

- 1. Inspect Your Vehicle** – Make sure your vehicle is road worthy. Check tire pressure, engine oil, antifreeze levels, lights (head, tail and brake), and wipers and defrost daily before you hit the road. Also, make sure your lights and steps are clear of snow and ice.
- 2. Slow down** – At fault accidents are mostly due to excessive speed. Driving at the speed limit may be legal, but is often too fast for snow covered or icy road conditions.
- 3. Give Yourself Some Extra Space** – The stopping distances are increased on wet/icy roads than they are on dry roads. So, leave plenty of room between so that you have enough space to move out of harm's way in case of unpredictable situations. Also, try not to travel in packs.
- 4. Stay Smooth** – Try hard to refrain from doing anything sudden – sudden braking, sudden acceleration, cornering, etc. If the situation demands you to slow down suddenly on a slick road, pump your brakes lightly. The key is to maintain a consistent speed and smooth deceleration to avoid doing anything that reduces traction on slippery roads.
- 5. Take Evasive Action** – Sometimes, it's better to take evasive action than hard braking, especially on a snow-covered road. If your speed is around 25-30mph, consider decelerating your truck slightly and maneuvering around the obstacles to avoid a collision.
- 6. When in Doubt, Pull Over** – If the weather condition is too severe to drive; find a safe way to get off the roadway (never on the shoulder) and wait until the weather gets better and it's safe for you to drive. Also, call your dispatch and see if your delivery can be rescheduled.
- 7. Check Twice** – When visibility is compromised in a whiteout blizzard, it can be difficult to see traffic lights and signs. Make sure you look twice before proceeding through an intersection or turning down a one-way street.
- 8. Make Sure You Have the Proper Gear** – Cold weather gear is essential for your comfort and survival in extreme winter circumstances. Coats, boots, hats, and other clothing items designed for extreme weather conditions should be an essential part of your winter kit.

The winter months can be a challenge, but with the proper preparation and attention to detail you can keep yourself safe and comfortable. Pay attention to the weather forecasts for the regions your route passes through. Make sure you have the basic necessities for survival and a way to communicate in case of emergencies. Keep your head on a swivel, watch your speed and distance, and if you feel unsafe there's no shame in getting off the road and parking until conditions improve. **No load is worth your life.**



TRUE OR FALSE

1. You should lower your speed when driving during a sleet storm.
2. You should maintain your speed to go around an object in the road to avoid crashing into it.
3. It's safe to turn right immediately at an intersection during a heavy snowstorm right after the light turns green.