



RISK REMINDER

February 2024

Name: _____ Company: _____

WINTER SPEED & SPACE MANAGEMENT

Truck driving in the winter can be challenging due to the weather when it goes bad. Snow, ice, and freezing temperatures can make the roads treacherous. As a result of these conditions as well as others such as poor visibility, poor traction and the increased unpredictability of other drivers on the road, consider the following:



- 1. Reduce Speed and Slow Down** — Operate at an appropriate speed for road conditions, visibility, traffic speed/flow. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Leave Yourself an Out** – Along with allowing yourself safe following distance (8-10 seconds), avoid traveling in packs. This will better allow you to take evasive action and maneuver around the obstacles to avoid a collision.
- 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. Stay Alert** – Seeing traffic lights and signs can be difficult when your visibility is compromised during a snow storm. Be prepared and know where you are going and stay alert when turning or entering an intersection.

The winter months can be a challenge, but with the proper preparation and situational awareness 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 an emergency. If the conditions are too dangerous, make the safe decision to get off the road. Let your dispatch team know so that they can re-schedule your appointments. **You can never be too careful when driving in the winter. The cargo is not worth your life.**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Conditions should determine your speed.
2. Traveling in pack is the safest action to take in slick conditions.