



Are You Ready for Winter Driving?

Preparation

Proper Trip Planning

- Follow routing, knowing where truck stops are located and where you will be fueling

Know the Weather Conditions Ahead

- Snow, Ice, Sleet, Wind, etc.

Complete a Thorough Pretrip

- Check the bunk heater and fluid level and ensure the defroster, windshield wipers, lights and turn signals are functioning properly.

Communicate with Your Dispatcher

- Have a contingency plan for emergencies.
- If you are running late or are unable to drive due to weather conditions, let your Dispatcher know if you are a fleet driver.

Driving

Driving for Conditions

- Speed must be reasonable and practical for conditions. Increase your following distance in adverse conditions. Consider the conditions of your equipment including weight distribution and tire conditions.
- Jackknifing and running off the road are the most common accidents resulting from driving too fast in wintry weather.
- Decrease speed entering curves, on and off ramps and bridges and watch for shadows.
- Use caution when bobtailing or pulling an empty trailer. Weight improves traction.

Black Ice

- If the roads appear slick and you see no slush or spray coming off the tires, you are driving on black ice!
- If you encounter black ice, keep your steering wheel steady and lift your foot off the accelerator.

Fueling

Apply the "10 and 2" Rule

- If the outside temperature is 10 degrees Fahrenheit for two (2) hours or more, idle the truck to prevent the fuel from gelling.

Blended Fuel

- Ensure the fuel tank is at least half full of blended diesel fuel. Blended fuel contains additives to keep the fuel from gelling.
- If the truck will be running in temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, you need to use the blended fuel.
- All truck stops above the state lines of Tennessee and Kentucky, the Midwest, the Northeast, the Northern Plains and Pacific Northwest will stock blended fuel in the winter.

Winter Weather Quick Facts

- 116,000 injuries and 1,300 deaths occur annually on snowy, slushy or icy roads
- Over 70% of all the roads in the U.S. receive more than five (5) inches of snow per year
 - 44% of all accidents throughout the year occur in wintry conditions
 - 25,000 slip, trip and fall accidents occur daily in the U.S.
 - 30% of people who fall suffer a moderate to severe injury

General Winter Weather Tips

- The most important rule is - the driver has the authority and responsibility to stop if weather conditions become too dangerous to allow for driving safely. If you are a fleet driver, communicate your plan with Dispatch so they know where you are and that you are ok.
- Many states require you to carry and use chains. Know the chain laws for each state.
- Be careful when walking through truck stops or at customer yards. Slipping on ice can lead to sprains, strains and even broken bones. Walk like a penguin, take short steps and use your arms for balance when walking on slippery surfaces.
- Always use three (3) points of contact when entering and exiting your vehicle.
- Never use cruise control when you are driving in adverse weather conditions.