

TIPS TO HELP YOU DRIVE SAFELY THROUGH ALL KINDS OF WEATHER



When It Rains:



- Always **wear** your **safety belt**.
- Drive slowly. The **road becomes slippery** (especially if it has not rained in a while) as water mixes with road oils, grease and dirt. Also, your car's tires tend to ride on the surface water, reducing traction.
- **Visibility** is often **impaired**. Turn on your lights and use the defroster or air conditioner to keep windows and mirrors clear.
- After driving through a puddle, tap your brake pedal to **dry out** your **brakes**.
- **Slow in puddles** to avoid wetting the engine. A wet engine may stop running.



SLEET and SNOW:



- Always wear your safety belt.
- While driving through sleet and snow use a five second rule instead of the standard two second rule to maintain a proper space cushion between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.
- Do not pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is *absolutely* necessary. Treat these as you would emergency response vehicles.
- Try to travel during daylight hours and, if possible, take at least one other person.



Other Severe Weather:



- Always wear your safety belt.

Fog:


- Stay to the right of the roadway.
- Turn on your headlights, day or night, to low beam.

High Winds:

- Use extra care and consider if a trailer, van or other "high profile" vehicle should be operated at all.
- When driving in extreme winds, slow down and grip the steering wheel firmly. Stay alert.

Severe Thunderstorms:

- Listen to your car radio and be alert.
- If you spot a tornado, do not try to outrun it. Get out of the car, find shelter in a ditch or low-lying area and lie face down to protect yourself from flying debris.



In the state of Virginia, lighted headlights are required whenever windshield wipers are in use as a result of fog, rain, sleet, or snow.

