

## WINTER WEATHER DRIVING

### FOCUS

Sometimes it's hard to tell if the road is freezing up. It may be raining, snowing, sleet, etc but the temperature is hovering around 32 and you're just not sure if you're dealing with wet road or an icy one.

- **Watch For Spray** from other vehicles' tires. If SPRAY is coming up, chances are very good it is **not** freezing. (But that doesn't mean it can't start.) Look for spray coming up from your own tires, too. It's a reassuring thing to see!!
- **Watch Other Vehicles**, are they slip-sliding and fishtailing? Are you starting to see cars in the ditch? Are you seeing trucks rolled over in the ditch or on the on/off ramps? These are strong indicators that the road is likely to be slicker than it appears.
- **Ice build-up** on windshield, where wipers don't cover indicates it is freezing.



- **Ice build up on CB antennas** makes them bounce back and forth very fast.

- **Black Ice** is a weather phenomenon in which an extra thin layer of ice forms on the road. Its shine can fool drivers into thinking it's water. This shiny ice surface is one of the most slippery road conditions. Black ice is likely to form first under bridges & overpasses, in shady spots & at intersections. Black Ice can accumulate anywhere but be especially careful after the sun goes down after a relatively warm day. When the temperature drops below freezing

after having a fair amount of melt-off during the day, new icy patches will form.

At the beginning of the winter, even around 32 degrees, it is not as likely that roadways will start to freeze over as soon as there's precipitation. This is because the ground is still warm from the summer. As the winter progresses, the ground becomes colder and colder and will freeze up faster when precipitation falls.

### ANTICIPATE

- **Plan your trip accordingly** - Check weather forecasts and possible construction areas along your route, chart fuel and meal stop locations, and allow extra time for traffic delays
- **Compensate for poor traction** by slowing down and making all movements gently - never drive faster than conditions allow

- **Double or triple your following distance and "never" tailgate.** Try to build as much separation between you and other vehicles. Keep at least a ten second following distance when driving on snow and ice covered roads - Avoid driving in packs
- **Black Ice:** Black Ice is a weather phenomenon in which an extra thin layer of ice forms on the road. Its shine can fool drivers into thinking its water. This shiny ice surface is one of the most slippery road conditions. Black ice is likely to form first under bridges & overpasses, in shady spots & at intersections
- Get in the habit of easing up on bridges - bridges & overpasses are often the most dangerous in the winter since they freeze before roadways



## CORRECT

- **Start with a good Pre-Trip to ensure equipment is in safe operating condition. Chains and tires are in good shape.**
- **Brake gently** to avoid skidding
- **If you begin to skid:**
  - Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, quickly
  - Then steer in the direction you want your truck to go
  - Before the rear wheels stop skidding, shift to drive and gently press the accelerator
  - Do not slam on the brakes
- **Stay alert....**keeping window slightly open to provide fresh air is a good idea
- **Turn on your lights** and keep them clean
- **Turn OFF the cruise control** - Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads
- Drivers need to be aware of becoming overconfident if they have antilock brakes. If the brakes happen to lock, release them to avoid sliding. This will help to regain steering
- Watch for melting or hard-packed snow and strong side winds
- Check for ice by feeling the back of your mirror and watching the spray off tires
- Watch for trailer pushing you on curves and turns
- Shifting product and icy roads are not a good combination.
- **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS wear your seat belt**

## TALK

- Make others aware of the Hazards in the yard or on the road
- **Don't ask your truck to do more than it can.** If you don't feel comfortable driving, **Park it and call your supervisor**
- Let the shop know if you need tires, chains or window washer fluid (not water)