

In this Issue:

- Drivers, Trucks and Winter Conditions
- It is Time to Talk to Your Drivers about Winter Driving Conditions
- Winter Driving Tips for the Driver and the Vehicle
- Winter Tips to Follow Concerning the Vehicle
- FMCSA is Urging Drivers to also Register for the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse
- DOT Announces Audit of FMCSA's CDL Oversights on Driver Disqualifications
- Large-Truck-Related Crash Fatalities Increased Again in 2018
- November 3-10 is Drowsy Driving Prevention Week
- Time to Fall Back.....Daylight Savings Time Change in Two Weeks!!
- Register Your Employees for the Safety Bulletin / View Past Archives

Email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



Safety Bulletin

With Fall Here, It is Time to Talk to Your Drivers About Winter Driving Conditions

October 25, 2019

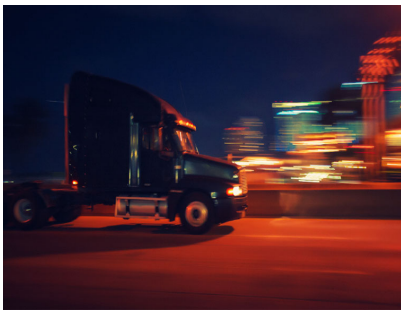


Winter Driving Tips for the Driver and the Vehicle

Proper Steps to take in Preparing for Winter Driving Conditions:

Make sure that your truck is prepared for winter driving. Tires are the most important aspect of keeping your vehicle under control in snow and ice condition. Traction tires on the drive axle(s) of the truck with ample tread depth provides the best control in snow and ice conditions. The tread depth and condition of the steer axle tires is also vital in keeping the control of the steering.

If you are operating in areas with chain laws, make sure the chains are in good condition and ready to be installed if needed. Mirrors and all glass in the truck should be clean for maximum visibility. Not sure what your states chain laws are? [Click Here to find out.](#)



Lights On. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

No Cruise Control. Don't use cruise control on snowy or icy roads.

Bridges, Overpasses infrequently traveled roads. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures

above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

Don't "pump" the brakes. If your truck is equipped with ABS brakes do not "pump" the brakes.

Drive slowly. Driving too quickly is the main cause of winter accidents. Just because you are a large truck with a heavy load doesn't mean that you're invincible, be sure to drive slowly and carefully on snow- and ice-covered roads.

Pay attention. Maneuvers are more difficult to make in the snow. Be sure to anticipate what your next move is going to be to give yourself lots of room for turns and stopping.

Don't tailgate. While tailgating is a bad idea under normal driving conditions, it is much, much worse in winter weather. Stopping takes much longer on snowy and icy roads than on dry pavement. Be sure to leave a lot of room between your vehicle and the one in front of you. A good rule of thumb is to leave four vehicle lengths between you and the vehicle in front of you for every 10 mph you are driving.

Brake before making turns. It is difficult to steer vehicles while applying the brakes in snowy conditions. So, make sure to smoothly step on your truck's brakes to reduce speed before entering turns. Once you have rounded the corner you can accelerate again.

Drive smoothly. Snowy and icy roads are much less forgiving than dry pavement. Make sure not to make any abrupt turns or stops when driving. Doing so will often cause your vehicle to lose control and skid out.

Be familiar with your vehicle. It is always a good idea to be familiar with your vehicle's driving dynamics. This is especially true when driving on snow or ice. Also, be aware of the weight condition of your truck. As your load and weight diminish the handling of the truck in snow and ice will change.

Learn how to control skids.

While it is best practiced in a driving school or on a closed course, it is not a bad idea to practice controlling skids in your vehicle so that you know how to react if it ever happens under real world driving conditions. When



skidding, you need to go against your natural instincts and turn into the skid and accelerate. Taking your foot off the brakes and accelerating gently during skids transfers your vehicle's weight from the front to the rear and often helps vehicles to regain control.

Winter Tips to Follow Concerning the Vehicle

1. Blended fuel purchased, or a diesel supplement is added to the fuel

tanks as temperatures creep below 32*.

2. Make sure the unit block heaters are plugged in when unit is not in use during the winter months.
3. Initial startup each day should follow this order – unplug block heater before start up, ignition in “on” position, if equipped with “wait for glow plugs” light, wait for light to go out, start unit, once running, unit should be brought up to temperature before operating.
4. If equipped with air brakes and air tank pull cords and/or drain orifices, you should purge tanks daily, make sure the air system airs to 120psi, and listen for the air drier to purge the system clean of moisture.
5. Make sure all fluids are up, including window wash. Now is the time to check additional fluids, such as DEF, “Wet Kits” etc.
6. Make sure wiper blades are functional, all glass/mirrors cleaned, if equipped, heated mirrors functional, make sure headlights tail/turn lights are cleaned off snow/ice/salt and are operational.
7. If you have driven in snow, ice, slosh, before stopping the vehicle at the end of their shift, lightly have the brakes applied to clean off and dry the shoes, drums, rotors and pads to prevent brakes pads freezing to drum/rotors while the unit is parked.
8. Make sure any steps and grab handles are clean, secure and dry to avoid slipping.
9. If you are operating in state that require chains to be on board, make sure the chains are the correct size, properly secured, clean, and not broken as to be easily applied when necessary.
10. Most important dress warm with self-wicking clothing and have extra clothing in the event the unit may break/shut down to avoid hypothermia.

[FHWA's website](#) contains links to information on weather and road conditions and the availability of travel web sites and 511.

FMCSA is Urging Drivers to also Register for the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has opened [Registration](#) for

motor carriers and drivers to participate in the agency's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse final rule goes into effect on January 6, 2020.

On and after that date, all companies that use drivers who have a Commercial Driver's License or a Commercial Learner's Permit must do four things:

1. Register with the FMCSA to use the clearinghouse. Registration is now available on the FMCSA website.
2. Upload information to the Clearinghouse on any drug or alcohol violations by any CDL driver that your company uses.
3. Query the Clearinghouse for drug or alcohol violations by any prospective CDL driver that your company is considering hiring or contracting to use to operate a commercial motor vehicle.
4. Companies must also annually query the database for information about all current CDL drivers they use.

Motor carrier companies will have to register with the clearinghouse in order to upload information about an employee driver's positive tests or refusals to take a test and query the system for current or prospective drivers. A company may use a Consortium/Third Party Administrator (C/TPA) to access the clearinghouse database on behalf of the company.

Drivers must also register with the clearinghouse to provide electronic consent to the company seeking information regarding the driver, and to review the accuracy of any information in the queried driver's clearinghouse record.



November 3-10 is Drowsy Driving Prevention Week

The National Sleep Foundation has launched Drowsy Driving Prevention week as an educational campaign designed to save lives by increasing awareness of the dangers of driving while sleepy. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that drowsy driving causes at least 100,000 police-reported crashes and kills more than 1,550 Americans each year. It is curious that all states have laws in place to enforce drunken driving, but few have laws to cite a driver who has fallen asleep causing an accident. Only the state of New Jersey explicitly defines drowsy driving as recklessness under a vehicular homicide statute. Known as "Maggie's Law," New Jersey's drowsy driving law has served to raise awareness of the consequences of fatigue behind the wheel and has spurred significant action in other states. There are now at least 8 states with 12 pending bills that address fatigued driving in various ways.

For more information on Drowsy Driving Prevention Week, [Click Here](#).

Time to Fall Back.....Daylight Savings Time Change in Two Weeks!!

Daylight savings time will "fall back" at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3rd. Make sure that all your drivers are aware that the change to daylight savings will



DOT Announces Audit of FMCSA's CDL Oversights on Driver Disqualifications

The DOT's Office of Inspector General announced that it will audit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) oversight of commercial driver disqualifications.

FMCSA reviews state commercial driver's license (CDL) programs annually to determine whether they comply with CDL regulations. After a fatal crash involving a commercial driver in Massachusetts, the state's Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) revealed that it had not systematically processed out-of-state notifications of driver convictions for several years.

Following the crash, during this past summer, RMV issued thousands of CDL suspensions based on previously unprocessed out-of-state notifications.

The audit announcement came the same day that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced an increase in fatalities involving crashes of large trucks and buses. The fatality rate rose 0.9 percent from 2017 to 2018 and the number of deaths involving such

occur. Caution route drivers especially that the amount of daylight will change according to their stops with the change. An intersection or street can present different challenges to drivers with one-hour change in the position of the sun. One-hour of time difference can present unique changes to a driver who is on a route.

[Register](#) for the Safety Bulletin or to [View the Archives](#).

SIGN UP FOR SAFETY BULLETINS

Email *

First Name *

Last Name *

Job Title *

Company *

SUBMIT

[Register](#) for the ELEVATE Weekly Question/Tip or to [view the Archives](#).



vehicles rose from 4,455 people in 2013 to 4,949 in 2018.

Large-Truck-Related Crash Fatalities Increased Again in 2018

While 2018 highway crash data showed an overall decrease in fatalities, large-truck-related fatalities increased since 2017.

Fatalities for crashes involving large trucks rose 0.9% from 2017 to 2018 according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). The increase occurred despite the overall 2.4 percent decline in overall fatalities on U.S. roads - the second straight year of declining overall numbers.

Focusing on fatalities involving large trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, total deaths rose to 4,951 in 2018 from 4,905 in 2017. Among fatalities in crashes involving large trucks:

- Non-occupants had 48 more fatalities, a 9.7% increase from 2017;
- Large-truck occupant fatalities in single vehicle crashes rose by 10 people (1.9%);
- Large-truck occupant fatalities in multiple-vehicle crashes decreased by three people (0.8%); and
- Occupant fatalities in other vehicles

ELEVATE: QUESTION/TIP OF THE WEEK SIGNUP

Email *

First Name *

Last Name *

Job Title *

Company *

SUBMIT

decreased by nine people, (0.3%).

The 2018 FARS release also clarified previously released data on large trucks involved in fatal crashes. After re-examining supporting material, NHTSA reclassified several light pickup trucks to the large truck category. The reclassification resulted in a previously reported 9% increase in large-truck related fatalities for 2017 being revised to 4.9%.

Overall, the total number of people killed in highway crashes fell from 37,473 people in 2017 to 36,560 in 2018. The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled also decreased by 3.4% to 1.13%, the lowest rate since 2014.

[follow on Instagram](#) | [follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [follow on LinkedIn](#) | [follow on Vimeo](#)

The Idealease Safety Bulletin is provided for Idealease locations and their customers and is not to be construed as a complete or exhaustive source of compliance or safety information. The Idealease Safety Bulletin is advisory in nature and does not warrant, guarantee, or otherwise certify compliance with laws, regulations, requirements, or guidelines of any local, state, or Federal agency and/or governing body, or industry standards.

Copyright © 2019, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
430 N RAND ROAD
N BARRINGTON, IL 60010

[unsubscribe from all emails](#) [update subscription preferences](#)