

DEFENSIVE DRIVING IN WET WEATHER



Defensive driving is especially important when roads are wet and slippery. The general response is to slow down, and while this is critical, let's also take a look at other factors to consider while driving in the rain.

BE PREPARED

- When it's raining always plan for longer travel times.
- Don't let your vehicle's condition contribute to the dangers.
 - Make sure your breaks are in good condition.
 - Clean your windshield and windows and make certain your front & rear defrosters work.
 - Check the wiper blades and level of your washer fluid.
 - Regularly check your headlights, taillights, turn signals, and tire tread.

STAY FOCUSED

- Turn on headlights to increase visibility.
- Avoid distractions (phone use, grooming, reading, eating & drinking).
- Be attentive to what's happening all around you.
- When changing lanes always check your blind spots.

SLOW DOWN

Always maintain a safe following distance and turn off cruise control. If you start to skid or hydroplane the cruise control could hamper your efforts to slow down.

Leave at least five seconds between you and the vehicle in front of you. This gives you more time to react to what's ahead.

USING YOUR BRAKES

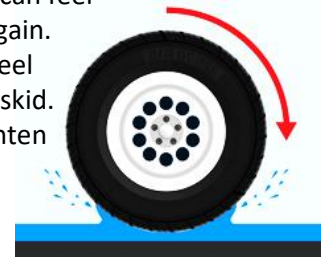
Brake gently and early. Hard braking in wet conditions can cause your vehicle to slide. This is a primary reason for rear end collisions. Braking early will also alert the driver behind you that you are slowing down.

ROAD POSITION

- While driving on highways, try to drive in the middle lanes and avoid driving through large puddles where possible.
- Try to avoid large trucks, tire spray can reduce visibility.
- Be prepared for wind and keep a firm grip on the steering wheel.

HYDROPLANING

Hydroplaning occurs when a layer of water builds between the tires and the road surface. If you start to hydroplane do not brake or turn suddenly. Ease your foot off the gas until the vehicle slows and you can feel traction on the road again. Turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid. As you recover, straighten the wheels. If needed, brake gently.



This *Safety Talk* provides general awareness training on defensive driving in wet weather. If this information is unclear or if you have any additional questions, please talk to your supervisor.