

December 3, 2018

## Winter is Here

### Professional Drivers Need to Know How to Adjust for Winter Conditions

**To meet winter driving expectations, you must:**

- ❖ Recognize that snow and ice don't cause accidents - people do;
- ❖ Adjust your driving techniques to meet winter driving demands; and,
- ❖ Recognize that YOU control your vehicle, the speed and the space.

***It all comes down to three key principles:***

- ❖ ***Slow down***
- ❖ ***Leave more space around your vehicle***
- ❖ ***Keep a safe following distance (no less than 6 seconds; increasing when the weather is foul).***

**When you slow down and leave more space, you'll be prepared if:**

- ❖ You need to stop unexpectedly because other vehicles are stopped, broken down, or pulled over to the side of the road.
- ❖ You experience poor traction due to snow, water, and/or ice on the road.
- ❖ Your tires spin because of a slippery, icy road surfaces.
- ❖ You encounter shiny spots of black ice on the road.
- ❖ You have reduced visibility due to snow and spray from the road.

**Winter Driving Reminders:**

- ❖ Gentle, early braking reduces the risk of skidding.
- ❖ Avoid sudden starts, stops, and turns.
- ❖ High volume traffic on snow covered roads, curves, and intersections makes them become slicker than usual because the snow and ice become packed down.
- ❖ Stay back from large vehicles that spray excessive water and snow.
- ❖ Use turn signals and brake lights early to warn other drivers of your expected movements.
- ❖ Check your wiper blades, washer fluid, and defroster before each trip.
- ❖ Make sure your headlights, turn signals, and brake lights are free from snow.
- ❖ Prevent skidding by gently steering in the direction you want to go.