



**North American
Transport Services**

WINTER DRIVING TIPS



It seems like every year winter driving conditions start earlier every time. This week the winter storm affecting specially the state of New York reminds us we need to be prepared for this season. Winter driving presents a number of challenges to both you and your vehicle and it tests your abilities and judgment.

As a professional driver you must always trust your instinct. No matter how much in a hurry or how much you'd like to see those miles reflected in your paycheck, you should always trust your experience on the road. If you're facing a heavy storm, don't get on the road unless you believe you can safely move and always make sure you have water, food, blankets and an emergency kit.

Cold weather tests the limits of your vehicle's mechanical abilities. Many times drivers turn their vehicle off to try to save some fuel and limit their idling time. During the winter, if the temperature is low enough the engine block might freeze and the truck will have to be towed. Please make sure you connect your engine block to a power source if you'll turn it off. It is also a good idea to add anti gel to your diesel to make sure your fuel doesn't gel up.

Make sure you follow these tips:

- Slow down and increase following distance : high speeds don't allow you to react on time, make sure you always have an out and enough space
- Watch the temperature: between 22 and 35 degrees Fahrenheit is when you're more likely to lose traction. When snow is melting on the ground the roads become slippery, so exercise caution.
- Stay informed: watch the news and if possible download apps that advise road conditions. If you're headed to an area that might get road closures, look for alternate routes. If it's unavoidable, then you're better off stopping beforehand at a place where there's still parking available, food, showers and diesel.
- Watch the opposite direction traffic: if all the vehicles coming from the direction you're headed are covered in snow you're most likely headed into a storm. Prepare yourself.
- Visibility: if you're already in the middle of the storm and have no visibility, don't pull over in the middle of the road. Someone might rear end you. Your best shot is to very slowly drive to a safe location.
- Signaling: it's important to communicate your intentions to other drivers. Use your signals to alert others when you're planning on changing lanes and give yourself more time than you usually do when the road conditions are good, and keep your headlights on.
- Drive smoothly: keep control of your truck without making any sudden changes. Any hard accelerations or braking can decrease your traction.