

ADJUSTING TO BAD WEATHER



It's the middle of winter and in some parts of the country snow and ice are making your job even tougher. Inclement weather is responsible for approximately 25% of all speeding related truck driving accidents on the road. When bad weather approaches, it's necessary to adjust and reduce the speed.

If you're experiencing rain, snow or ice you should cut down your speed by one third on wet roads and by one half on snow or icy conditions, and if you see other truckers pulling over, maybe it's time you do so as well. Winter driving conditions such as rain, snow, and ice dramatically affect the braking distance of a vehicle. The driver's capability to complete a smooth and safe stop is severely limited due to reduced tire traction. Always slow down your vehicle when you see shady areas as these can easily be patches of black ice on the road.

It is also important to allow more time for maneuvers in poor weather. Turn your blinker on and leave it on for about 5 blinks before your change lanes, and signal for turns before slowing down. Exercise caution when snowplows are on the roadways since these vehicles travel much slower than regular traffic. Passing a snowplow can be extremely dangerous as sight lines and visibility near a working snowplow are severely restricted by blowing snow.

Remember, there is no such thing as a "safe" speed when driving on snow or ice. You must be extremely cautious until you are able to determine how much traction you can expect from your tires. When stopping, avoid sudden movements of the steering wheel and pump the brake gently.

