

ADVERSE WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

FOR PEST CONTROL COMPANIES



BY GARY SHAPIRO

Driving is one of the most dangerous things we can do while at work. Vehicle crashes are a leading cause of both work related injuries and fatalities worldwide. Although some unsafe driving conditions can result from drivers that multi-task coupled with those that are constantly rushing, experience fatigue, or encounter other distractions behind the wheel that can be controlled, circumstances such as weather cannot be. It's important for Pest Control companies to be proactive and take the correct steps to educate yourself or your drivers on adverse weather safety tips and provide proper training to help prevent collisions. In this article, we will discuss safety tips and procedures to avoid collisions in inclement weather.

Inclement weather can be tricky to drive in, especially when you're driving in something unexpected like hail, sleet or torrential rain. When driving in inclement weather, it's important to always take a defensive stance. These defensive driving tips for driving

in inclement weather will help you to keep you and your vehicle safe.

Get your vehicle ready for storm season. Don't wait until after the first sign of bad weather to have your battery, belts, hoses, radiator, oil, lights, brakes, tires, exhaust system, heater/defroster, wipers and ignition system checked. Inspect your tires each time you fill up the tank. Look for bulges and tread wear. Check air pressure frequently in winter climates as it decreases in cold weather. Keep your fuel tank sufficiently so that you can make it to a safe haven and avoid problems with frozen fuel systems. Make sure you have sufficient windshield washer fluid in the reservoir at all times. You should also have emergency supplies such as triangles, jumper cables, food and water in the vehicle. Make sure that all of your windows and mirrors are clean. Clear snow, ice and other debris from the roof, hood, and lights. After starting your vehicle, wait for the fog to clear from the interior of the windows so you will have good visibility all around.

Adjust your speed for the conditions that you are driving in. The slicker the conditions, the more speed needs to be adjusted. It is critical that tires retain firm contact with the road at all times. Increased speeds can cause hydroplaning and greatly lengthen required stopping distances.

Allow enough space between you and the car in front of you. When the road is slick or covered with snow you want to make sure that there's enough room and time for you to brake or get out of the way when you need to. Giving yourself an out is a good idea and can be the difference between sliding to the shoulder and having a critical crash. It's also a good idea to be conscious of the cars around you. Knowing if there's a car behind you or to your sides can be important when deciding where to turn if you're trying to avoid an accident





Use your lights and wipers. The number of people that refrain from doing this is alarming. Remembering to utilize safety features should be actions that you consider even before you step into the car.

Periodically checking your headlights to ensure that they are working properly is an important measure in driving safely in inclement weather. Driving with one headlight, or even worse, no headlights or taillights can be detrimental when other drivers are having a hard enough time seeing you through the rain, sleet or hail. Checking your headlights and turning them on, even if you see only a few droplets of rain, is a basic way to stay safe. In cases of heavy fog, remember to never use your bright lights and turn on fog lights if your vehicle is so equipped.

In cases of torrential rain and high winds, stop your car in a safe area away from trees and power lines. Do not drive through standing water when you do not know how deep it is. Stay in your car

if you see lightening as a vehicle provides better protection from lightning than being out in the open. Do not try to outrun a tornado or other high wind types of storms. Whenever possible, exit your vehicle and move indoors to a safe location. If there are no buildings nearby, position yourself under a bridge, in a ditch or near a concrete structure such as a culvert whenever possible. «

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