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Volume 8 - Issue 11 | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services | November 2014

Safe Driving

Your task as a safe driver is to know how to adjust your driving to meet conditions on the road when you must travel, or to know how to maintain a modicum of safety when you find yourself in bad weather.

Sun Glare

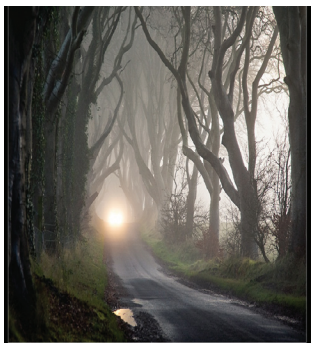
Driving toward the sun from sunrise to sunset can impair your visibility. Slow down when visibility is reduced in order to react to the unseen.

Dark sunglasses and the sun visor in your car can help you see better and diminish some of the effects of glare and reflected light from windows and chrome.

Fog

Among all weather conditions, fog is potentially one of the most dangerous. Follow these tips:

- Use your wipers and defroster as necessary for best vision.
- Turn on your low-beam headlights. Do not use high-beams – it can actually decease your visibility. High-beams will reflect back and cause a glare.
- Slow down. Fog makes it very difficult to judge speed – check your speedometer to make sure you have slowed down.
- Increase your following distance and be prepared to stop within the space you can see in front of our vehicle. Watch for slow moving vehicles. Check your rearview mirror for vehicles approaching from behind.

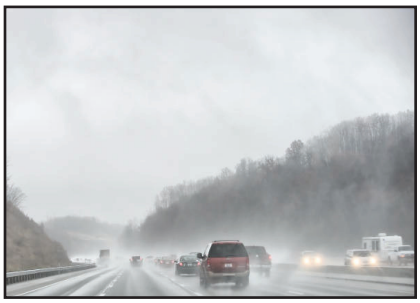


It is easy to think you can see well enough to proceed through patchy fog. However, you may suddenly encounter a heavy fog bank and find yourself in a dire circumstance of not being able to see ahead, behind, or on either side of your vehicle.

If the fog becomes so thick that you can barely see, pull safely and completely off the road. Do not continue driving until the fog lifts and visibility improves.

Rain

- Slow down at the first sign of rain, drizzle, or snow on the road. This is when many road surfaces are most slippery because moisture mixes with oil and dust that has not been washed away.
- Turn on your low-beam headlights.
- Heavy rainfall can reduce visibility to zero. Pull over and wait for the rain to subside, or until visibility is restored.
- Wet road surfaces can cause tires to hydroplane (skim on a thin layer of water). This could result in loss of control and steering ability. Hydroplaning is caused by a combination of standing water on the road, car speed, and under-inflated or worn-out tires.



- If it feels like your tires have lost traction with the surface of the road and your vehicle is hydroplaning, take your foot off the accelerator and let the vehicle slow down. Do not try to stop until your tires are gripping the road again. To reduce the chances of hydroplaning, use tires with adequate water-channeling treads and check them regularly. Remember the other important factor is speed control – always slow down when water is on the road.

Snow and Ice

- Keep the windows and windshield clear.
- Obtain maximum visibility by turning on low-beam headlights and windshield wipers.

- Drive slowly and stay farther behind the vehicle ahead. Slow to a crawl on ice.
- Slow down as you approach curves and intersections.
- Avoid fast turns.
- Avoid quick stops.
- Shift to low gear before going down a steep hill, but do not downshift at too fast a speed.
- If you drive in snowy areas, carry chains in case you find yourself in conditions where you can't drive without them. Learn how to put the chains on BEFORE you need them.
- If you begin to skid, let up on the accelerator and turn the front wheels in the direction of the skid.

Streets and highways covered with snow, snow pack, or ice are extremely hazardous. They are most hazardous when the snow or ice begins to melt. The slush or wet surface acts as a lubricant and traction is reduced.

Source: www.DriversEd.org

Courtesy of www.wellnessproposals.com