



Safety Alert

Winter Safe Driving: A Guide for Southern Drivers



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While winter weather is not a common occurrence in the South, occasional snow and ice can create hazardous driving conditions. Here are some safety tips for southern drivers who may be unaccustomed to winter driving:

- 1. Monitor Weather Forecasts:** Stay informed about the weather forecast during the winter months. Even a small amount of snow or ice can make roads slippery and dangerous. This is particularly important for drivers who may be traveling to areas prone to winter weather and hazardous conditions.
- 2. Practice Winter Driving:** If you're not used to driving in winter conditions, it's a good idea to practice. Find a safe, open area to get a feel for how your vehicle handles in snowy or icy conditions.
- 3. Slow Down:** Speed limits are designed for ideal conditions. In winter weather, reduce your speed and increase your following distance to ensure you have enough time to stop if needed.
- 4. Avoid Sudden Actions:** Avoid sudden braking and steering which can cause skidding. If your vehicle begins to skid, steer gently into the skid and ease off the accelerator. Communicate your intentions (blinkers, etc.) so your actions are predictable to other drivers.
- 5. Keep Your Vehicle Well-Maintained:** Ensure your vehicle is in good working order. Check your tires, brakes, fluids, wiper blades, lights, belts, and hoses regularly.
- 6. Be Prepared:** Even in areas where snow is rare, it's a good idea to keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle. This could include a blanket, flashlight, first-aid kit, shovel, and sand or kitty litter for traction. Additionally, ensure that your vehicle is adequately fueled by keeping your fuel tank at least half full or more.

Remember, the key to safe winter driving is preparation and understanding how to handle your vehicle in snowy or icy conditions. For more information on winter workplace safety, please contact your Strategic Comp Loss Prevention Consultant.

