



# Keep your drivers safe in any weather

Every driver knows what it's like to experience unexpected road conditions due to hazardous weather. Responding quickly and correctly can mean the difference between being in or out of control.

Each year, more than 1.25 million roadway vehicle crashes are caused by adverse weather-related road conditions.<sup>1</sup> To help keep your drivers safe, train them to properly respond to common weather scenarios.

## HIGH WIND

- Be alert for high winds on bridges and overpasses
- Be cautious when driving next to another truck that might be blocking the wind
- Avoid passing other vehicles if possible—and watch for drivers who may be trying to pass
- Watch out for blowing debris on roadways
- Keep both hands on the steering wheel to help maintain control
- Always buckle your seat belt
- Properly secure cargo loads according to the North American Cargo Securement Standards—required under federal and state statutes
- Stay tuned to state Department of Transportation traffic managers for high wind warnings
- Always pull off the road and take shelter immediately during a tornado warning or a hurricane

## RAIN, ICE, AND SNOW

- Slow down—trucks can hydroplane at only 35 mph
- Increase following distance to give yourself space to react to emergencies
- Avoid passing other vehicles or driving beside them in a pack
- Be courteous to other vehicles and conscious of water spray you generate from your tires
- Follow state guidelines that require chains on your tires during certain conditions
- Don't rely on tire chains to prevent sliding—they'll help with traction but won't stop your truck if it begins to slide

<sup>1</sup>Source: Ten-year averages from 2005 to 2014 analyzed by Booz Allen Hamilton, based on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data.



## WINTER WEATHER

Be aware of local regulations that limit or prohibit idling. A common practice in cold weather country is to let the truck engine idle while sleeping, going in to a truck stop to eat, or while loading or unloading. Drivers need to be aware that while the engine may be warm and the oil may be flowing freely, the grease in the wheel hubs, transmission, and differentials is cold and stiff. Inadequate lubrication can cause overheating and lead to severe problems. Start out slowly in cold weather conditions to allow lubricants time to warm up and become fluid.

As a general practice, equip each vehicle with the following items during winters:

- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Flares and reflectors
- Blankets
- First aid kit
- Shovel
- Sand, gravel, or clay oil absorbent
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Matches or lighter, candle
- Nonperishable food items
- Booster cables
- Tire chains



**At Sentry, we want to help you protect your drivers, your fleet, and everyone else on the road. Training your drivers how to handle adverse roadway weather conditions can help save your business from potentially catastrophic losses.**

**For additional information on driving in varying weather or for other safety topics, please contact your Sentry agent or your regional Sentry safety consultant, or visit [sentry.com](https://www.sentry.com).**

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