

Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

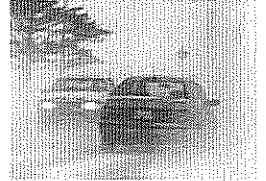
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Topic 724: Driving in Winter Weather*

**Introduction:** Driving in winter weather (snow, ice, wet and cold) is a challenge for vehicles and drivers. Knowing what to do in an emergency situation is pivotal to avoiding or surviving an accident. Following are guidelines for driving in winter weather conditions:

**Driving in winter weather:** Buckle up before you start driving. Keep your seat belt buckled at all times.

- Driving at reduced speeds is the best precautionary measure against any trouble while driving on slippery roads.
- Be alert. "Black ice" is invisible and will make a road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement should look grey-white in winter.
- Do not use cruise control. Winter driving requires you to be in full control at all times.
- Reduce your speed while approaching intersections covered with ice or snow.
- Allow for extra traveling time or even consider delaying a trip if the weather is inclement.
- Drive with low-beam headlights on. Not only are they brighter than daytime running lights but turning them on also activates the tail lights. This makes your vehicle more visible.
- Lengthen your following distance behind the vehicle ahead of you. Stopping distance on an icy road is double that of stopping on a dry one. Stay in the right-hand lane except when passing and use turn signals when changing lanes.
- Steer with smooth and precise movements. Changing lanes too quickly and jerky steering while braking or accelerating can cause skidding. Be patient and pass other cars only when it is safe to do so.
- Be aware and slow down when you see a sign warning that you are approaching a bridge. Steel and concrete bridges are likely to be icy even when there is no ice on the asphalt surface (bridges over open air cool down faster than roads).
- Consider getting off the road before getting stranded if the weather is worsening.



**Braking on a slippery road:** If an emergency does not require slamming the brakes as hard as possible, squeeze braking (also known as threshold braking) along with declutching (manual shift) or shifting to neutral (automatic transmission) will do the job most efficiently.

**Braking without anti-lock brakes:** Use the heel-and-toe method. Keep your heel on the floor and use your toes to press the brake pedal firmly just short of locking up the wheels. Release the pressure on the pedal, and press again in the same way. Repeat this until you come to a full stop.

**Anti-lock brakes:** Use heel-and-toe method, but do not remove your foot from the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.

**What to do in the event of a skid:** Do not panic. Do not brake or accelerate. Look where you want your vehicle to go and steer in that direction. The safest way to disconnect the driving force on the drive wheels is by doing either of the following:

If you are using automatic transmission, shift to neutral. If you cannot do this immediately, do not touch the transmission gear. If you are using manual transmission, declutch.

**What to do if stuck or stranded in the snow:** Avoid over-exertion and over-exposure to the cold. Cold weather can put extra stress on the heart and contribute to the hazards of over-exertion. Sweaty clothes next to the skin will not help insulate your body.

- Stay in the car if you cannot shovel your car out of the snow.
- In blizzard conditions, do not leave the car for assistance unless help is visible within about 100 yards or 90 meters.
- Turn on flashing lights or set up flares. A brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna may make your vehicle more visible in daylight.
- Run the car engine occasionally (about 10 minutes every hour) to provide heat (and to conserve fuel). Ensure that the tail exhaust pipe is free of snow and keep the window opened slightly to prevent the build up of carbon monoxide when the engine is running.
- Bundle up in a blanket. If there is more than one person in the car, share; two people sharing blankets will conduct body heat better.
- Wear a hat and scarf. The head and neck are major sources of heat loss from the body. Monitor for any signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Do not fall asleep. If there is more than one person in the car, take turns sleeping. Watch for traffic or rescuers.
- Do not stay in one position too long. Do some exercises to help the circulation - move arms and legs, clap your hands, etc.

**Conclusion:** Never drive in winter weather unless absolutely necessary. If you must drive utilize these guidelines for winter driving.

### *Work Site Review*

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:**

*(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)*

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

*City of San Angelo Foreman/Supervisor's Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*