



North Carolina Wing Weekly Safety Blast



2018 - Topic #2 - Winter Driving Safety

Reason for this Blast:

Wintery conditions cause many vehicle accidents.

Safety Points:

- The best advice for driving on hazardous road conditions is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it.
- When driving to work be aware of the condition of the roads and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.
- Make sure your car is prepared, you have an emergency kit prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.
- It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.



Driving safely on icy roads

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses, and infrequently travelled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions were wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Don't pass snow plows or salt/brine trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

MAIN DISCUSSION POINT OF THIS SAFETY BLAST

Patience, and a few simple techniques, improves safety while driving in wintery conditions.