



# Defensive Driving – Adverse Conditions

Defensive driving is driving to prevent accidents in spite of adverse driving conditions, such as:

- Weather
- Traffic
- Lighting
- Vehicle or road condition
- Incorrect actions of other drivers
- Driver's physical/mental state

The defensive driver assumes that other drivers will make mistakes and is cautious and on guard, planning ahead in the event an error is made. **Defensive driving consists of two very important elements: driving skill and good judgment.** Failure to adjust to adverse conditions is a major factor in accident causation.

The adverse conditions most frequently encountered result in reduced traction and reduced visibility. Conditions that reduce traction include rain, snow, ice, slush and gravel. Reduced visibility conditions include twilight, darkness, rain, snow and fog.

An important aspect of good driver skill and judgment is anticipation and preparation for the “what if” scenario.

## Driver Tips

To be a defensive driver when driving in adverse conditions, your drivers should:

- Increase following distance enough to avoid a rear end collision if a driver in front brakes hard.
- Keep headlights, tail lights, mirrors, windows, and windshield clean.
- Use emergency flashers as necessary.
- Apply brakes gently and steer without jerky movements.
- Be extremely cautious when running empty or bobtailing in slippery conditions. Lightly loaded wheels lock up easily during braking and this induces jackknifing.
- Beware of traveling too slowly on slick, banked curves. The vehicle might slide sideways into traffic or slide off the road.
- Be prepared to get off road and wait for conditions to improve, if necessary.

<b>Topic:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Presented by:</b>	

<b>Attendee Signature</b>	<b>Attendee Printed Name</b>

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<b>Comments or Notes:</b>