

WINTER TIPS for TRUCKERS

Winter can be a dangerous time to be on the roads, whether you're a new or seasoned driver. To help you prepare and stay safe this winter, here are some tips:

Watch for Black Ice

Black ice is a thin layer of transparent ice that forms when the temperature is close to freezing.

Look for ice build up on your windshield & side mirrors; these are clues that conditions are favorable for black ice to develop.

Slow down when approaching shaded areas, bridges and overpasses as these sections of road freeze sooner than others in cold weather.

Don't follow too close

Traffic tends to bunch up on bad roads – the natural inclination is to follow other drivers. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.

There is no load worth your life

If you experience extreme driving conditions, try to find a safe spot to wait it out. Let your logbook gain some hours. If you can't find a spot in a truck stop, park on a ramp or anywhere that is safe and out of the way. Try not to park on an incline, as you may get stuck.

Talk to people

Make sure your radio is on and talk to the drivers around you. We're all a little nervous out there and it helps to know what you're dealing with. Try to find a seasoned driver with a healthy respect for physics to help talk you through it.

Make sure you have the supplies you need

In the unfortunate event that you end up stuck, spun out, wrecked or just sitting in a back up, be sure you have the necessities with you. Keep extra warm clothing, blankets, canned food and water. Be sure to keep your diesel tanks full so you won't run out.



Carry sand or kitty litter in your truck to use when performing tasks on slick or icy surfaces.



Always be aware of road conditions. When necessary, adjust speed and distance.



If at any time you feel it is too dangerous to drive, park in a safe location until road conditions improve.

Carry a cell phone & make sure it's charged

Cell phone batteries can freeze in extremely cold weather, so don't leave your phone in the vehicle for extended periods of time.

Drop your speed to match road conditions

No matter how much experience you have, the way your truck will move on snow or ice is unpredictable.

Watch for warning signs

If vehicles are spun out in the median or shoulder, the roads are bad. If you start seeing big trucks spun out, it's time to get off the roads.

Wear sturdy shoes or boots that have good traction

Snow, ice and cold weather can make even the simplest task treacherous. Maintaining 3 points of contact when entering or exiting the cab will keep you on your feet, especially in winter when steps and the ground below may be icy.

Commercial vehicles carry chains Oct 1 - Apr 30

Make sure your chains fit your tires and practice installing them before you need to use them. Otherwise, you may have a cold and frustrating experience on the side of the road. Stop at a weigh station or rest area for the install so you are safely off the road and have some room to drive your rig forward and back.

Treat your diesel

Diesel gels when it gets really cold. If your diesel gels, your truck won't run. If you are facing winter weather conditions you need to put an anti-gel additive to your tanks (put it in BEFORE you fuel so that it mixes). It is a good idea to stock up ahead of time.

