

SAFETY TALK

Defensive Driving

Driving in the Rain

The rain is upon us. The next few weeks look like they'll be wet ones. We will do our fair share of driving in the rain. This Safety Talk is for all drivers and contains the following valuable winter driving safety tips:

- Stay toward the middle lanes—water tends to pool in outside lanes.
- Maintain proper following distance. Increase the three second rule in wet weather.
- Drive in the tracks of a vehicle ahead of you.
- Try to avoid large trucks or busses because water spray from their tires will reduce your vision.
- Watch for brake lights in front of you.
- Turn headlights on in light rain and in gloomy, foggy, or overcast conditions to help you see the road and help other drivers see you.
- Avoid driving through deep water. It can cause serious damage to your vehicle's electrical system.
- When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid.
- Watch out for places where floodwater collects.
- Don't use cruise control. If you hydroplane there is a chance your car could actually accelerate.
- Be careful on bridges and overpasses, they will freeze first.

HYDROPLANING

If you find yourself hydroplaning or skidding do not brake or turn suddenly. Ease your foot off the gas until the vehicle slows and you can feel traction on the road again. Turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid. As you recover control, gently straighten the wheels and if you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping action. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally.

Be Prepared

- ✓ Get a tune up
- ✓ Check the battery
- ✓ Check coolant
- ✓ Check wipers
- ✓ Check rear defrost
- ✓ Fill washer fluid
- ✓ Carry extra car fluids
- ✓ Carry emergency supplies

**RESOURCES**

- CHP: [Rain/Fog/Snow Driving Tips](#)
- AAA: [Wet Weather Driving Tips](#)
- State Farm: [5 Tips to Remember for Driving Safely in the Rain](#)
- Mobile Oil: [Safer Wet-Weather Driving](#)