

# WINTER

## DRIVING TIPS

### Keep your Fleet Safe

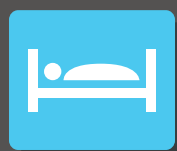


#### WINTER IS HERE!

Shorter days, inclement weather, and compromised road conditions can present a host of challenges to the road warriors who move freight.

Here are some safe driving tips for professional drivers as they take to the roads this winter.

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in regions that get a lot of snow and ice.



Remain vigilant in managing HOS: Fewer daylight hours can wreak havoc with your body clock and compromise your ability to remain alert.



Slow down! With an average of 521 fatalities annually<sup>1</sup> associated with icy driving conditions, it's critically important to reduce speed and allow plenty of space between vehicles.

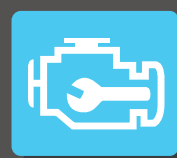


22 percent of vehicle crashes each year occur in adverse weather, such as rain, sleet, snow, fog, and wind.<sup>2</sup>



Minimize distractions. With less-than-ideal driving conditions, it's more critical than ever to remain focused on driving:

- Wait until parked to use cell phones.
- Take advantage of features like Omnitrac's in-motion user interface to ensure safe interaction with mobile fleet management technology.



With snow and ice prevalent in many regions during winter months, driving this time of year can be especially hazardous and scary, making vehicle maintenance particularly important.



Leverage Vehicle Inspection Report to ensure all vehicle systems are in top condition and preempt on-road mechanical issues.



Check battery charge, windshield wipers, and anti-freeze levels. Keep windows clean for maximum visibility and put no-freeze fluid in the washer reserve.



Driving on wet, icy roads requires tires that ensure traction and can take a beating. In 2017, there were 738 fatalities in tire-related crashes.<sup>3</sup> Maintain tire health with Tire Pressure Monitoring and Trailer Tire Inflation Alert from Omnitrac.



Dehydration can cause weakness, dizziness, confusion, sluggishness, fainting, and more.<sup>4</sup> Keep extra water and non-perishable food in the cab in case you're stranded in your truck.



Plan alternate routes and allow for extra time in case of road closures.



Always buckle up! Safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 to 60 percent and are<sup>5</sup> and are a simple way to increase your safety on the road.



Don't forget sun protection — winter sun and glare can be just as harmful as a day on the beach. Use sunscreen, sun sleeves, window covers, protective clothing, and sunglasses to keep your body safe this winter.

#### Sources

1. [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/weather/q1\\_roadimpact.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/weather/q1_roadimpact.htm)
2. <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop16086/ch3.htm>
3. <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/tires>
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5. [https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/safety-belts/#.W9cw\\_HtKios](https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/safety-belts/#.W9cw_HtKios)