

DRIVING IN ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

When planning an activity or trip, one of the first items to check is what the weather conditions will be during the activity but also traveling to and from the activity. Driving in ADVERSE conditions can be risky and requires the drivers to prepare. Plan a meeting with all drivers to discuss possible weather conditions on the trip. If renting a van or another large vehicle, review the safety procedures for the particular vehicle.

Driving in ADVERSE conditions is more than driving in ice and snow but also includes rain, fog, or any weather-related conditions that affect driving.

Planning for a trip needs to start with checking the vehicle. Check for the following:

- Wiper blades are good, and the wiper fluid reservoir is full.
- Tires are in good condition and have good tread depth and proper pressure.
- Windows are clean inside and outside.
- Rearview mirrors are clean and adjusted properly.
- All fluids including oil and coolant are at the proper levels.
- Have a basic tool kit that includes electrical and duct tape.
- Include a first aid kit, jumper cables, flares, water, and flashlight with extra batteries.

When driving conditions change, so should the driving techniques. Regardless of the weather condition, if there is snow, rain, or fog, always decrease speed and drive slower. Increase the following distance because braking distances will increase, and be prepared for slick driving surfaces.

Driving techniques to consider:

- Be prepared for sudden increases in snow, rain, or fog conditions.
- Use turn signals and signal intentions early.
- Start braking early.
- Do not use high beams.
- Do not overdrive the headlights.
- Avoid stopping on the shoulder or on the side of the road.
- Avoid stopping on hills, water puddles, or icy patches.
- Do not attempt sharp turns.
- Watch for vehicles in the rearview mirrors.

BE PREPARED. Planning for any trip or outing should include what weather conditions could affect before leaving, during travel, and when preparing to return home.