

Travel Tips
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What was the WEAC-Fox Valley Travel Committee has met for the past nine years. Committee membership is open to all active and retired members. During the year, we will be meeting at Appleton's Mary's North (Richmond St. off 41) the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. As the years have gone by, this group has also discussed topics of interest such as WEA-Trust / Benefits, Wisconsin Retirement System (fixed and variable), Medicare, Medicare supplements, investment tips, and WEAC.

Rural Mutual in its latest brochure had an article: "Get a Grip on Wet Weather Driving." According to statistics, 75% of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on wet pavement. As spring approaches the weather is changing all the time and so are the road conditions. There are some tips to keep in mind the next time you are to drive in the rain.

1. As in my last article, turn on your headlights so the rear lights are on. Check to make sure all your headlights, brake lights, taillights, and turn signals are functioning properly. Turn on your windshield wipers and lights as soon as you start the car.
2. Take the time to check your tires. Properly inflated tires and adequate tire tread depth is vitally important to driving in wet conditions. You can check your tread depth by inserting a quarter upside down in the tire groove. If you can see Washington's entire head, it is time to get new tires.
3. Avoid using cruise control. Cruise control is great in dry weather; however, on wet pavement it is not recommended as it increases your chances of hydroplaning.
4. Finally, avoid large puddles. Driving through large puddles can impair your brakes, cloud your vision, and even may cause you to hydroplane. If you cannot avoid the puddle and find yourself hydroplaning, ease your foot off the gas, but do not brake.

The American Automobile Association has four recommendations on how to handle aggressive drivers:

1. Avoid tailgating. What angers drivers the most is tailgating. Avoid plenty of space between your car and the car ahead.

- 2. Keep your distance.** When drivers are agitated, it is best to stay behind them—they can do less damage to you this way. If necessary, exit the highway to avoid them.
- 3. Do not engage.** One angry driver cannot start a fight unless another driver is willing to join in. If a driver seems mad, avoid making eye contact or returning hand gestures, for example.
- 4. Get help.** If you feel endangered by another driver, call 911 if you have a cell phone. Another option is to drive to a busy place, such as a mall or gas station. Use your horn to get someone's attention. This usually will discourage an aggressor. Do not get out of your car, and do not lead an aggressive driver to your home.