



## Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

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### Everyday Safety Talks

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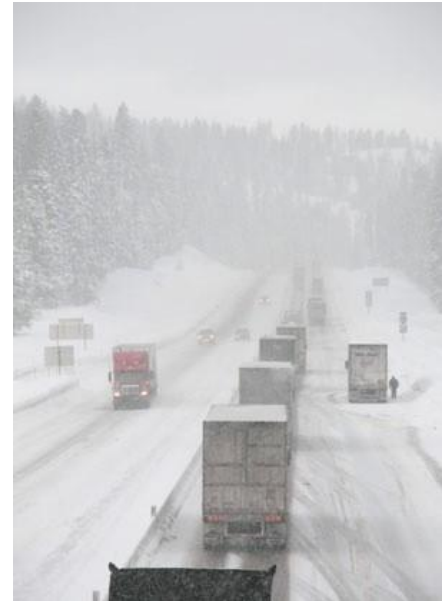
# Cold Weather Driving

*This Everyday Safety Talk was originally published as the January 2016 "Safety Pins" by Philip E. Spiezio, Safety Officer, Washington County Office of the Safety Officer*

Driving is another task that becomes more hazardous during the winter months. Winter drivers encounter many different hazards, such as snow, ice, and reduced visibility. Road conditions can vary widely. Especially watch out for icy patches on bridges and in shady areas.

Here are a few tips that may help to prevent you or somebody you know from being in a car accident this winter.

- Winterize your vehicle—Check tires (consider snow tires), check your antifreeze, windshield wipers, fluids, batteries, etc.
- Be sure to completely clean off your vehicle of snow before driving it—Don't forget your head, tail, and warning lights
- Drive according to the conditions—Stay well below posted speed limits in bad weather and keep a safe distance from the next vehicle
- Expect the unexpected—Be ready to reduce speed in case of sudden stops. Give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination Keep your lights on—Make sure other drivers can see you
- Use safe braking techniques to avoid skidding
- Always gently steer into a skid to regain control of the vehicle
- Always drive defensively and never while under the influence of drugs or alcohol!



#### Resources and References:

OSHA - Safe Winter Driving Publication

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/SafeDriving.pdf>

NHTSA – Winter Weather Driving Tips

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips>

National Safety Council - Be Prepared For Winter Driving

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/driving>

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