



Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121



60-Second Safety Advisor #45

Driving in Ice and Snow

Driving in ice and snow is a tricky and dangerous business. Better roads, better cars and better tires help, but they won't take the place of careful driving practices. There are some things you can do to keep your experience with winter driving from becoming a crash-course.

Give yourself plenty of extra time for getting to your destination. Slow down - speed limits are for ideal conditions. Make sure you can see, and that others can see you, by clearing all windows of snow, ice or fog before starting out and drive with your low-beam headlights. Keep all lenses free of dirt by wiping them periodically. Dirty headlights can cut visibility by 50 percent or more. Be sure your tires have adequate tread for traction in snow and to reduce the risk of hydroplaning in rain or puddles on the road. Keep in mind that every time the outside temperature drops 10 degrees, the tire air pressure goes down about one pound per square inch. Remember too that underinflated tires are the major cause of tire failure.

There are specific driving techniques that you should know about driving in the ice and snow - take the time to do some research to learn those techniques before you go on a trip that will take you into that environment. Lastly, minimize distractions and keep your situational awareness very high. Winter driving can be done safely, but it does require even more attention and skill.

