

Part 5: Safe driving

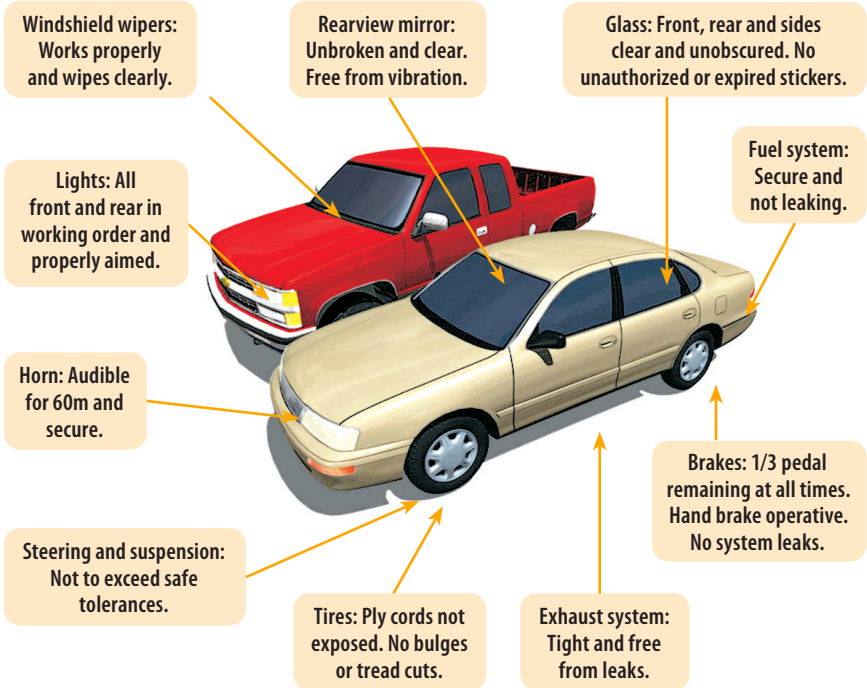
5.1 The vehicle

Your vehicle must be maintained in good mechanical condition to be operated safely. The parts indicated in the diagram particularly affect the safe operation of the vehicle and should be checked regularly by qualified mechanics.



Regular check-ups and careful maintenance will prolong the life of your car.

Remember that you cannot drive safely in an unfit car.



5.2 Check your vehicle

Yes No

- Brakes – Do they hold promptly and evenly? Will the parking brake hold the car?
- Head Lights – Do the dimming switch and both upper and lower beams work? Are lights aimed to avoid glare? Is the glass clean?
- Rear and Stop Lights – Do bulbs work? Do brakes operate stop lights? Is the glass clean and do they show a red light?
- Tires – Are they properly inflated? Do you check regularly for worn treads, cuts and breaks?
- Windshield Wipers – Do they always operate and wipe glass clean?
- Muffler and Exhaust System – Is it free of worn spots, tight and quiet?
- Steering – Is the steering wheel free of excess play? Wheel bearings tight? Wheels properly aligned and balanced?
- Glass – Is it clear and clean? Is it free from cracks, discoloration or stickers that obscure your vision?
- Horn – Does it work?
- Rear View Mirror – Does it give you a clear view of the road behind? Is it free from cracks and discoloration?

5.3 Seat belts save lives

All passengers that occupy a position within a vehicle equipped with seatbelts must wear a seatbelt. The number of passengers is limited to the number of operating seatbelts. Violations for not limiting the number of passengers to the number of operating seatbelts will result in a fine.

Drivers must ensure that passengers under 16 years of age use seat belts in vehicles equipped with seatbelts. Passengers age 16 years and older are responsible for buckling up themselves.

Children must be buckled into proper child safety seats which are fastened to the vehicle by a seat belt and any other straps specified by the manufacturer



until they reach one of the following thresholds:

- age of nine;
- weight of 36 kg (79 lbs.);
- height of 145 cm (57 inches).

Taxis, emergency vehicles and buses are exempt from these provisions.

In vehicles equipped with a passenger front air bag, caution should be used in securing a child restraint system in that location. Most vehicle and child car seat manufacturers advise not to use this location and stress using the rear seating positions.

Consult the owner's manuals of your vehicle and child car seat.

Shoulder belts should never be worn without a regular lap belt. Seat belts should be worn and properly adjusted as specified in your owner's manual.

DID YOU KNOW?...

Transport Canada recommends that children 12 years and under be properly restrained in the back seat, especially if the vehicle is equipped with side air bags.



All new vehicles are equipped with seat belts that must be worn by the drivers and passengers. Many cars are also equipped with air bags. Air bags give additional protection from serious injury in head-on collisions where the driver and front seat passenger may strike the steering wheel, dashboard or windshield. Seat belts must be used in conjunction with air bags.

5.4 Penalties for seat belt infractions

Police officers throughout New Brunswick may check at any time for seat belt usage by drivers and passengers. Drivers are not assessed points for other passengers but they will be charged for those under 16 who are not wearing a seat belt. Passengers over the age of 16 are charged for the offence with no loss of points.

If a driver is convicted for not wearing a seat belt, they must pay a fine and will be assigned a loss of two points on their driving record. While it is an offence for

a passenger to not wear a seat belt, there is no assessment of points against a passenger's licence or the driver should a passenger not be wearing a seat belt.

5.5 Preparing your vehicle for winter driving



Winterize your car and your driving habits. Have these items carefully checked and repaired if necessary.

Radiator

Check for leaks and proper level of anti-freeze.

Battery

Cold weather starts adding an extra strain on battery life. Check the charge and the water level in the battery.

Brakes

Have them adjusted or serviced if necessary. Be sure all four brakes are engaging equally. On icy roads, poorly adjusted brakes can cause your car to skid dangerously.

Muffler

Have it checked for leaks. A leaking muffler or exhaust system can create a carbon monoxide hazard, particularly if you are stalled in traffic or a blizzard. Never start your car in a closed garage. If you start to yawn, have a headache, feel dizzy, weary or nauseated while driving or parked, turn off the motor, get out of the car and walk around. Open your window to let fresh air into your vehicle.

Tires

Check them and replace any damaged or bald tires. Verify condition to ensure sufficient tread to make the vehicle safe in various ice and snow conditions. Winter driving is safer with snow tires or studded tires. However, the use of studded tires may cause more of a skid in an emergency stop than rubber tires, depending on road conditions.

DID YOU KNOW?...

You are permitted to use studded tires from October 15 to April 30 of each year.

For added traction and steering control you should mount snow tires on all four wheels. A good compromise would be all-season radials with sufficient tread depth to self-clean in snow and slush conditions. Do not mix radials with non-radial snow tires. Consult your Owner's Manual.

Tire chains may also be carried in the vehicle for use in ice and snow conditions. The use of chains may also cause more of a skid in an emergency stop.

Windshield wipers and heater/defroster

Be sure your wiper blades are in good working condition. Ensure rubber is not broken or worn. Check your heater/defroster unit to be sure it is in proper working order.

5.6 The driver

The most common causes of highway crashes in New Brunswick are:

- Inattention/driver distraction
- Operating too fast for conditions
- Failure to grant right of way
- Impaired driving
- Obstructed view
- Following too closely
- Improper use of lanes

Safe driving — meaning the avoidance of crashes — is the result of a combination of attitude and skill on the part of the individual driver. Skill is acquired largely through proper instruction and careful practice. In addition, if you strictly observe the law and develop an attitude of consideration for others you can help eliminate most highway crashes. Remember, you should always adjust your speed according to the conditions of the road.

Distracted driving

The use of hand-held electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. This includes hand-held mobile devices for calling or texting, portable global positioning systems (GPS) and entertainment devices such as video game players and mp3 players.

The law also prohibits the manual programming or adjusting of any GPS unit while driving. In addition, television-style display screens, monitors, DVD players and computer screens are not permitted within the visual range of the driver

unless they are part of a GPS unit or provide information to the driver on the vehicle's various operating systems.

Speed

Speed too fast for conditions is one of the greatest causes of crashes.

Speed limits indicate the maximum speed at which it is safe to drive under ideal conditions and other conditions listed below can only be met safely by a reduction in speed:

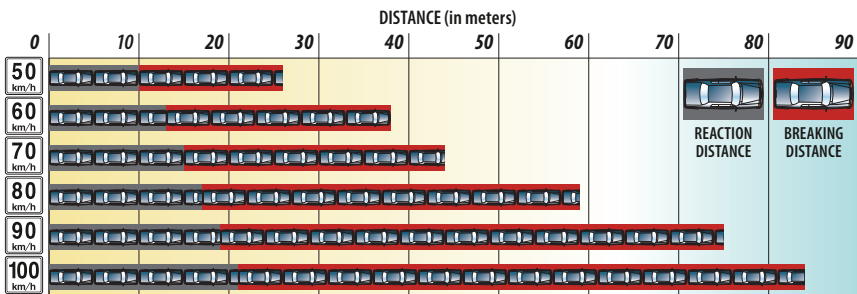
- Poor visibility
- Wet or slippery highway
- Pedestrians (adults and children) and/or animals on or near the highway
- Heavy traffic
- Fatigue, illness, nervous tension (these could be reasons not to drive at all)

The higher the speed, the longer it takes to stop a vehicle and the greater the force of impact in the event of collision. When the speed is doubled, the impact on striking an object is four times as great.

Stopping

Stopping a vehicle is a complex operation which is performed in two stages:

1. The driver must see a reason for stopping. To see the reason for an emergency stop calls for continual close attention to the road and traffic conditions when driving.
2. As the driver, you must react quickly. You must take your foot off the gas pedal and apply the brakes. The time required for this varies slightly with individual drivers. Under normal conditions, the average reaction time is about 3/4ths of a second. In 3/4ths of a second your car travelling at 50 km/h will go 10 metres (about two car lengths) before you can even start to apply the brakes.



Note: Data based in tests of cars having brakes in first class condition and on dry level asphalt surfaces. Reaction distance is based on average reaction time of three-quarters of a second.

Driving posture

Proper handling and control of a vehicle only happens when the driver keeps a good erect posture.

- *Adjusting the seat:* The seat can be moved backward and forward to fit the leg length of each driver (some cars with power seats can also be moved up and down). The seat should be adjusted to allow the driver to sit comfortably in a relaxed position and to reach all the pedals and controls easily.
- *Adjusting the mirrors:* It is essential that all mirrors be adjusted so the driver has good visibility to see traffic behind and cover as many blind spots as possible.
- *Adjusting seat belts:* Seat belts should be adjusted properly and not worn loosely. Injuries could result if seat belts are not worn properly.
- *Headrest:* Ensure that the headrest is properly adjusted.
- *Controls:* Become familiar with and locate all interior controls before starting (i.e. wipers, horn, heater, lights, etc.).
- *Foot controls:* Always use your right foot to operate the accelerator and brake pedal. Your right heel should rest on the floor at the base of the accelerator pedal so that it can easily be moved to the brake pedal, when necessary. Use the left foot for operating the clutch in standard gear shift vehicles.
- *Steering wheel:* Keep both hands on the steering wheel, usually at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions.



Following

Following too closely or tailgating is a frequent cause of highway collisions. To drive safely you must leave sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead so that you can stop in the event of an emergency.

The **two-second interval** is a good way to learn to recognize safe following distance. Just watch the vehicle ahead of you pass some definite point on the highway, such as a sign post. Then count to yourself “one thousand and one, one thousand and two”. If you pass that same spot before you finish the count, you are following too closely. This holds true at any speed. This rule applies to favourable driving conditions. Unfavourable conditions call for lower speed and a longer count.

Another equally valid system is to allow at least one car length for each 20 km of speed.

Defensive driving

Defensive driving means driving in anticipation of possible collision situations and being prepared to avoid them.

Many collisions cannot be avoided once they have begun to develop but they might have been avoided if the driver had anticipated and guarded against them. Watch for signs of possible hazards such as:

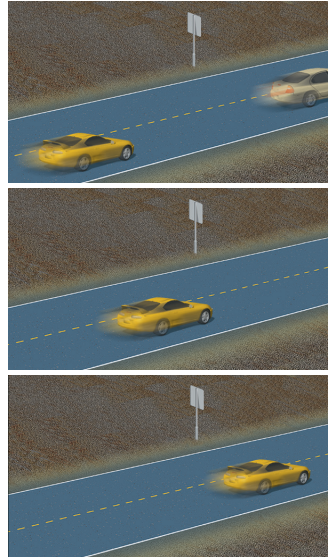
- A ball bouncing on the street may mean a child or animal running out into the roadway;
- Exhaust smoke coming from a vehicle could indicate a driver ready to pull out;
- A vehicle approaching a stop sign or red light at an obviously fast rate of speed may not stop;
- Brake lights flashing in a line of traffic means you should be prepared to stop.

Always watch for any other indication of what a driver or pedestrian might do.

The essence of defensive driving is to reduce your own driving mistakes and to anticipate the mistakes of others (drivers and pedestrians) and guard against them.

Animals on the highway

Animal crossing signs warn drivers where there is a known danger of large animals, such as moose and deer crossing the roads. Drivers should use caution especially at dawn and dusk. Animals are unpredictable so reduce your speed. Stay alert and scan both sides of the road, not just the pavement in front of you.



5.7 White cane

By law, the use of the white cane is restricted to people with visual impairment. When you see a pedestrian with a white cane you should exercise extreme caution.

Remember, you can see them but they cannot see you.

5.8 Crash

Some day you may be driving along a highway and come upon a serious collision. Very likely your first instinct will be to run to the car involved and start removing people. Both medical and collision records show that efforts of untrained rescuers often aggravate the injuries caused by the collision. Use the following information as a guide.

DID YOU KNOW?...

At 30 km/h the impact is the same as if your car fell from the top of a one storey building. At 60 km/h (double the speed) the impact is the same as if your car fell from the top of a four storey building (four times the force of impact).

If you arrive first at a collision

Prevent a second crash. Pull completely off the road far enough away from the crash scene to protect the vehicles from further collisions with other cars. Display your four-way flashers to warn other vehicles.

If you have a mobile phone, call 9-1-1. Remain calm. Identify your location and describe the scene. Follow the directions of the 9-1-1 operator. Stay on the phone until you are directed to hang up.

Do not move the injured. Unless they are in a burning car or other immediate danger, leave them in the car until trained help arrives. Do not twist or turn them. Unnecessary moving often complicates injuries. If a driver is trapped by a steering wheel, the pressure can be eased by releasing the seat catch and pulling the seat back.

If you are not trained in first aid, you can help the injured by:

- covering them with blankets or coats to keep them warm;
- loosening collars, ties and belts to help the injured to breathe more easily;
- calming them by talking to them and telling them that help is on the way.

Reduce fire hazard. Turn off the ignition of the damaged vehicles. Keep smokers away. In case of fire, try to put it out with a fire extinguisher, dirt or a heavy fire retardant blanket. Caution must be used when approaching a burning vehicle.

Attend first... to anyone who is not breathing or who is bleeding severely. To stop the bleeding put the cleanest available pad directly on the wound and apply pressure. Use a cloth, handkerchief or clothing. If the pad becomes blood-soaked, leave it on, put another on top of it. Maintain pressure until professional help arrives.

Artificial Respiration

In a real emergency, to help a person start breathing:

1. Remove anything in the person's mouth that might block air. Tilt the head back, pull chin upward so tongue does not fall back to block airway.
2. Pinch nose shut. Seal mouth with yours. Blow into mouth. Give a full breath for an adult, and a gentle breath for an infant.
3. Remove mouth, take deep breath, blow in air again – every five seconds for an adult, every three seconds for an infant.
4. If chest fails to rise and you hear no exhaling, recheck mouth for possible blockage, again tilt head back, pull chin up and start the technique again.
5. If you cannot obtain a tight seal over the person's mouth, close mouth and breathe into nose. For an infant, breathe into both mouth and nose.
6. Continue effort until professional help is on hand or until the injured person is breathing.



Otherwise, unless you are trained and know how to perform first aid properly, you should leave it up to someone who does know.

5.9 Impaired driving

Impaired driving — consuming alcohol and/or drugs before getting behind the wheel — is one of the greatest contributing factors in motor vehicle fatalities.

Drivers who are impaired by drugs or alcohol do not have complete control over themselves and therefore cannot be in control of a vehicle. As a driver you have responsibility to yourself, your passengers and other road users. The passengers in your vehicle are usually your family and friends.

All motorists in New Brunswick under the age of 21 must maintain a zero percent Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) while driving. There is also a zero tolerance program in place for drug-impaired driving for novice drivers and those under 21 years of age.

In addition to loss of driving privileges, a conviction for impaired driving could result in higher insurance rates, difficulty obtaining insurance or loss of employment for the convicted driver. There are also tragic consequences, such as serious injury, disability and the loss of life.

Alcohol

Alcohol can affect you in different ways, depending on your body weight, your emotional state, your diet, and if you are also taking prescription or recreational drugs. The most important factors contributing to alcoholic impairment are the amount of alcohol absorbed into the blood and the amount of time allowed for the elimination of this alcohol. This rate is affected by other factors such as body weight, the quantity and type of food in the stomach and the type of alcoholic beverage consumed.

Another danger develops when the alcohol starts to “wear off”. You can easily convince yourself that you no longer feel the effects and are perfectly sober. This state of mind is a delusion. You are comparing your peak feeling of impairment with the declining impairment that you feel as your body eliminates the alcohol from the blood. But you are not sober. You are only making a dangerous comparison.

Drugs and medication

Drugs — both legal and illicit — can impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely.

Some prescription or over-the-counter drugs are known to cause inattention and drowsiness, such as those used to treat common infections like colds or flu. Avoid driving if you are taking these medications, and never mix with alcohol.

Make the safe decision

Drugs and alcohol impair your ability to drive by affecting your motor skills, reaction time, attention and judgment. If you plan to consume alcohol or cannabis, do it responsibly. Plan for a safe ride home: have a designated driver, take a cab or use public transit.

Consequences for drug-impaired driving

Police officers who stop a driver showing signs of impairment by drugs — including cannabis — have the power to seize vehicles and suspend a driver's licence on the spot.

Consequences for anyone caught driving under the influence of legal or illegal drugs include:

- Immediate short-term roadside suspensions;
- An administrative licence suspension program for those charged with or convicted of drug-impaired driving;
- Discretionary and mandatory vehicle impoundment for short-term and administrative licence suspensions;
- Participation in a re-education course for impaired drivers;
- Licence reinstatement fees.

Consequences for alcohol-impaired driving

It is prohibited under the Criminal Code of Canada to drive with a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of 80 milligrams or more (mg) of alcohol per 100 millilitres (ml) of blood (0.08 percent or more). However, if you are caught driving with a BAC level within the “warning range” of 0.05 and 0.08 percent, you will face penalties under New Brunswick's *Motor Vehicle Act*.

Vehicle Impoundment Program

For a driver caught with a BAC level within the warning range of 0.05 and 0.08, vehicles will be impounded for:

- first offence within five years: three days (discretionary);
- second offence within five years: seven days (discretionary);
- third or more offences within five years: seven days (mandatory).

For a driver caught with a BAC level of 0.08 or over:

- First suspension for blood alcohol content (BAC) 80mg or over – OR - failure or refusal to provide breath sample within 10 years: 30 days (mandatory);
- Previous suspension for blood alcohol content (BAC) 80mg or over – OR - failure or refusal to provide breath sample within 10 years: 60 days (mandatory);
- There is a mandatory seven-day vehicle impoundment period for novice drivers who violate the zero tolerance rule.

Drug-impaired drivers may also have their vehicle impounded for short-term and administrative licence suspensions.

Ignition Interlock Program

Enrollment in the ignition interlock program is mandatory for all drivers convicted for driving while impaired by alcohol or failure or refusal to comply with a demand under the Criminal Code.

An ignition interlock device prevents a driver from starting or driving a vehicle when under the influence of alcohol. Eligible drivers will apply to have interlock devices installed in their vehicles. The driver will be issued a restricted drivers licence which allows the individual to operate only vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device. Participants bear the cost of the program.

There is a voluntary program available for drivers suspended for a 30-day short-term licence suspension or a three-month Administrative Licence Suspension for alcohol impaired driving.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles has the authority to extend the time in the ignition interlock program and grant exemptions, including for medical reasons.

24-hour suspension for driver unfitness

In New Brunswick, police officers have discretion under the *Motor Vehicle Act* to suspend a driver's licence for 24 hours if they have concerns about the safety of the driver and others who share the road.

A police officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a driver of a motor vehicle is unfit to drive the motor vehicle safely for a medical or other reason may require the driver to stop their motor vehicle for the purpose of determining whether or not there is evidence to justify that belief.

If a police officer believes a driver is unfit to drive a motor vehicle safely for a medical or other reason, the police officer may request the driver to surrender their licence and suspend their driving privilege.

Failure or refusal to comply with a demand

If a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, they may require the person to submit to a standard field sobriety test, provide a sample of breath or bodily substance and/or submit to an evaluation by a Drug Recognition Expert. A conviction for failure or refusal to comply will result in the same penalties as that of a driver convicted of impaired driving.

5.10 Some rules for safe driving

Courteous drivers seldom cause crashes. Use courtesy and common sense while driving. Follow these safe driving rules to reduce crashes:

- You must not assume that you will be given the right of way. The other person may not think that they should grant it.
- Slow moving vehicles must drive to the extreme right and must not impede traffic.
- Do not pass on a hill or curve at any time.
- When stopping is necessary, see that you and your vehicle are clear of the paved surface or close to the curb. Be cautious of traffic when exiting your parked vehicle. Never park on the left side of the roadway facing traffic.
- Know and obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Line markings on the pavement are for your guidance and protection. Where the road is marked with double lines, a solid line on your side prohibits passing. A broken line on your side indicates you may overtake and pass if conditions so warrant. Do not ride the line.
- When approaching an intersection slow down and check in all directions for hazards.
- Except when driving in two or more marked lanes going in the same direction, never pass on the approach to an intersection, a bridge or a railroad crossing.
- When leaving a parked position check oncoming traffic and signal, check your blind spot as well as your mirrors. Pull out only when way is clear, both behind and in front.
- A driver must yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or in an unmarked crosswalk at the end of a block.
- Year after year “speed too fast for conditions” is a major cause of collisions in which the driver is held responsible. The remedy is simple - observe road and weather conditions and adjust your speed accordingly.

- When passing, check for other traffic, ahead and behind. Signal before changing lanes and sound your horn for the driver you are passing.
- On a two lane highway, do not try to pass more than one car at a time.
- Don't follow another car that is passing; allow that driver to complete the pass before you attempt to pass. If you are being passed, give way to the other driver.
- Be extra careful when there are bicyclists and/or motorcyclists on the road.
- Remember to provide one-metre clearance when passing a bicyclist. Do not tailgate. Watch for them in your mirror. They may be riding in your "blind spot".
- Stop driving when you become drowsy. Pull off the highway as soon as it is safe to do so. Drowsiness is one of the greatest dangers in highway driving.
- Avoid distractions while driving, especially on high speed roads. Keep your eyes on the road not on other passengers in the vehicle. Do not drive with animals loose in the car.
- When you leave the highway after a long drive and begin to drive on two-lane highways and/or city streets, you must make a complete adjustment in speed and vision to the changes in driving conditions.

Good drivers do more than comply with the law. Be considerate of other drivers. The life you save may be your own.

Good driving habits and the right vehicle may save you money at the gas pump. For information on fuel-efficient driving techniques and other tools and tips, visit www.tc.canada.ca

Check Your driving habits

Yes **No**

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Traffic laws: Do you know and drive by the rules? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Signs, signals, markings: Do you read and heed the signs that point the way to safety? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stop and turning signals: Do you let other drivers know your intentions? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Traffic lanes: Do you always drive in and turn from the proper lane? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Speed: Do you keep in mind that speed limits are for your protection? Do you glance at your speedometer frequently to ensure you are driving within the speed limit? |

- Bad weather conditions:** Do you always keep an eye on the weather and adjust your driving accordingly? Rain, sleet, snow, ice and fog automatically mean slow down!
- Nighttime:** Do you slow down at sundown?
- Pedestrians:** Are you a driver who always yields to pedestrians?
- Children:** When it comes to traffic, do you always expect the unexpected from children... especially in school zones, near playgrounds and in residential areas?
- Driving sober:** Do you refuse to drive while impaired?

An important safety device in any car... A driver with safe driving habits!

5.11 Highway, weather and visibility conditions

Friction

The only contact your car has with the highway is through the tires and it is the friction between the tires and the highway that enables you to start, stop and control the car. This contact is about equal to the length of the palm of your hand. On a wet or slippery road, this friction is greatly reduced and it becomes correspondingly more difficult to stop or control a vehicle.

If your vehicle is equipped with cruise control, you should avoid using it in wet or slippery conditions.

Stopping on ice

If you apply your brakes suddenly on an icy road your car will go into a skid. If your vehicle is equipped with an anti-lock braking system (ABS), apply steady pressure to the brakes and do not pump the brake pedal.

If you have to stop on a slippery surface and your vehicle does not have ABS, it is advisable to pump the brake pedal — in and out — gradually slowing the vehicle without locking the wheels.

The use of studded tires decreases stopping distance on ice but can also increase the distance in extreme cold temperatures.

How your vehicle responds to a skid depends on whether or not it has rear wheel, front wheel or four-wheel drive. Refer to your vehicle's owner's manual for proper braking procedure.

Rain

Many drivers do not realize that roads are likely to be especially slick just after it begins to rain or drizzle. The first few drops loosen the grease and dirt accumulated on the surface of the road. The loosened grease and dirt mix with the raindrops and the road is quickly covered with a slippery film that makes it extremely dangerous. The first few drops of rain are danger signals telling you to slow down and use extra caution.

Hydroplaning — “water skiing on the highway”

Hydroplaning takes place on wet roads. As speed increases, your tires start to ride up on a film of water. In a passenger car, partial hydroplaning starts at about 55 km/h and increases with speed to about 85 km/h at which point the tires may be totally up on the water. In a severe rainstorm, for example, the tires lose all contact with the road at 85 km/h. When this is the case, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate or corner. A gust of wind, a change of road angle or a slight turn can create an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid.

The best thing to do is to take your foot off the accelerator and let the car slow down. If you skid while your car is only partially hydroplaning, you should be able to control by correcting for the particular type of skid that occurs. If you are totally hydroplaning, follow your natural impulse and steer to keep the car going in its original direction but be careful — DO NOT OVERSTEER. When you feel the car regaining traction start to straighten your wheels but be prepared to handle a skid in the opposite direction.

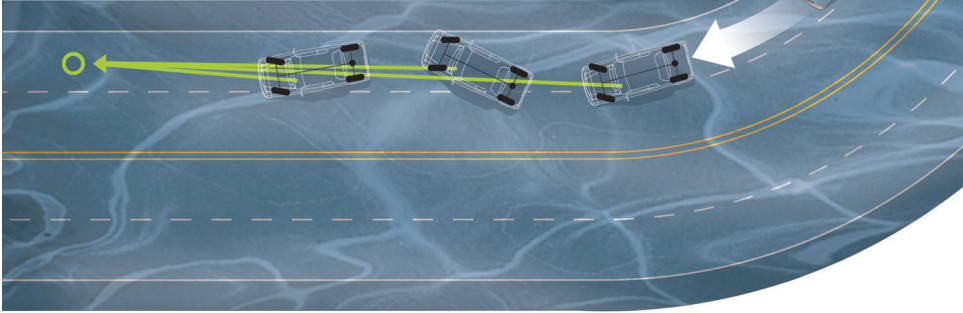
To prevent hydroplaning, it is most helpful to have good tires with deep treads. The treads allow the water to escape from under the tires and tend to prevent complete hydroplaning at normal highway speeds. However, when the depth of the water exceeds the depth of the treads, complete hydroplaning can be expected.

Skids

When tire grip fails, skidding occurs and the driver loses control. Skidding can be caused by:

- excessive speed
- excessive acceleration
- sudden and/or excessive braking
- abrupt steering

To correct a rear-wheel skid, remove your feet from the pedals and steer in the direction of the skid. To correct a four-wheel skid, release the brake. Reapply it gently and increase pressure slowly to avoid locking the wheels again.



Experienced front wheel drive vehicle drivers may find that gentle acceleration will help the vehicle pull out of a rear wheel skid. If the front wheels skid, take your foot off the accelerator. The engine braking effect may slow the car to the point where front end traction is regained. If the skid continues, depress the clutch or select neutral.

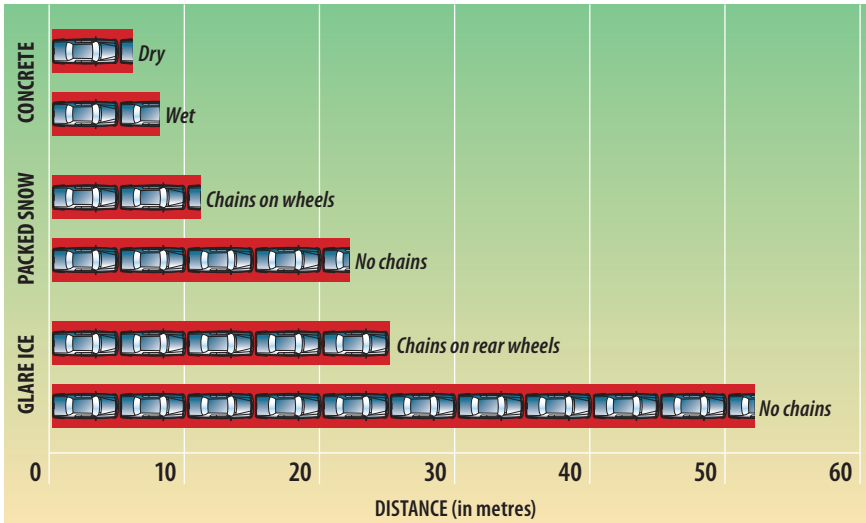
Freely rolling wheels are better able to regain traction.

For added traction and steering control you should mount snow tires on all four wheels. A good compromise would be all-season radials with sufficient tread depth to self-clean in snow and slush conditions. Do not mix radials with non-radial snow tires. Consult your owner's manual.

Rules for winter driving

- *Accept your responsibility* to do all in your power to drive without collisions. Do not blame the weather for a crash. Be prepared to meet any situation.
- *Adjust your speed to conditions* — Slow down on wet, snow covered or icy roads so that you can stop in time if you have to. Watch for ice patches, especially in shaded areas, on bridges and on overpasses.
- *Get the "feel" of the road* — Try brakes occasionally while driving slowly and if away from traffic. Find out just how slippery the road is and adjust your speed to road and weather conditions. Remember, you cannot stop on a dime. Never make sudden moves like slamming on brakes or accelerator. Downshift the gears to slow down for a stop.

Braking distances of a car travelling at 30 km/h



- *Keep the windshield clear* of snow, ice and condensation. Be sure headlights, windshield wiper blades and defrosters are in top working condition. You have to see danger to avoid it.
- *Use snow tires, tire chains or studded tires* on snow and ice. They cut stopping distances and give more starting and climbing traction ability. However, even with the help of chains or studs, slower than normal speeds are a must on snow and ice.
- *How your vehicle responds* to winter weather driving conditions depends on whether or not it has rear wheel, front wheel or four-wheel drive. If your vehicle has an anti-lock braking system (ABS), learn how to use it correctly.
- *Follow at a safe distance* — Keep well back of the vehicle ahead of you to give yourself room to stop. Remember, without tire chains, it takes up to 12 times the distance to stop on snow and ice as on dry concrete.
- *Remember* that condensation on the pavement of bridges and overpasses freezes before the rest of the roadway.

5.12 Intersections

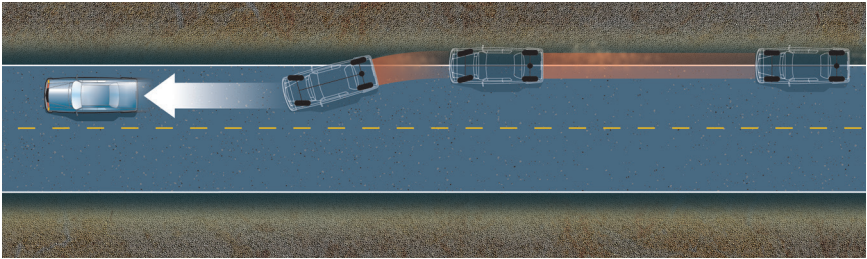
Since a great many collisions occur at intersections, drivers should exercise extra caution when approaching any cross street or road. Always reduce your speed before entering the intersection and check for oncoming traffic and pedestrians, first to the left and then to the right, to make sure the way is clear before proceeding.

5.13 Tire blow-out

If a tire blows out do not apply the brake. Let up on the accelerator. Keep the clutch engaged, make sure you have a firm grip on the steering wheel with both hands and slow down gradually until you have come to a stop. One protection against blow-outs is careful tire maintenance. Check your tires frequently for wear, bulges and proper inflation.

5.14 Running off the pavement

If a wheel runs off the pavement onto the shoulder of the road, remove your foot from the accelerator and steer straight ahead. When the way is clear behind you, turn wheels to the left and drive slowly back onto the pavement. If you jerk the car back on the road too quickly, it may go out of control and swerve into the path of oncoming traffic or overturn.



5.15 Curves

To drive around a curve safely:

1. reduce speed when approaching and
2. gradually accelerate after entering the curve.

Collisions occur when drivers enter at top speed and then attempt to slow down in the curve. If the road is slippery, a slight force would be enough to push the car off the road. If there is an advisory speed posted, slow down to the speed. Never stop, park or make a U-turn in a curve.

Since curves and hills obstruct the view of the road, do not pass or back up in these areas.

5.16 Driving at night

Night driving calls for special care because of reduced visibility. It is particularly important not to overdrive your headlights - that is, to drive at so fast a speed that you cannot stop the car within the distance in which your headlights will reveal objects on the highway. Unless you immediately reduce your speed when deflecting headlight beams, you are driving into a blind area.

DID YOU KNOW?...

It is the law to have your headlights on at all times if your daytime running lights are not operational or your vehicle is not equipped with daytime running lights.

5.17 Driving in fog

Fog is one of the most dangerous driving conditions the driver can encounter. Most drivers recognize the hazards of driving in fog but are unaware of what should be done to increase safety and minimize hazards.

Follow these tips:

1. The very first thing to do when fog is encountered is gradually reduce speed. Avoid sudden stops. Remember that other vehicles - especially trucks - need a greater distance in which to slow down.
2. In dense fog, creep. Most collisions in fog are caused by overdriving visibility distance - in other words, travelling too fast.
3. Drive using low-beam headlights which throw light down onto the road rather than into the fog. Lighted headlights provide an additional safety factor by helping other drivers to see your vehicle. Do not use parking lights under these conditions.
4. When stopping because of poor visibility in fog, be certain to get as far off the road as possible. It's a good idea, especially if traffic is heavy, to get out of the car and move far off the road. Moving off the highway and waiting for the fog to lift is by far the safest thing to do.

It is also wise to use the above practices in conditions of densely falling or blowing snow.

SEE and BE SEEN — TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS!

5.18 Limited access highway

Two lane highway with climbing lane

Slow traffic lanes are designed to allow faster moving traffic to pass slower moving vehicles.

Where a traffic control device directs traffic to use a designated lane, drive in that lane.

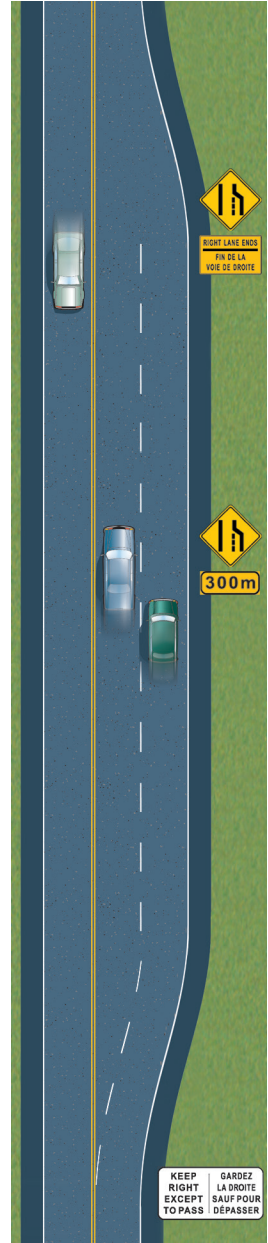
In the situation of either a climbing lane or slow traffic lane, at the end the driver in the right hand lane must yield to the driver in the left lane.

Entrance and exit ramps

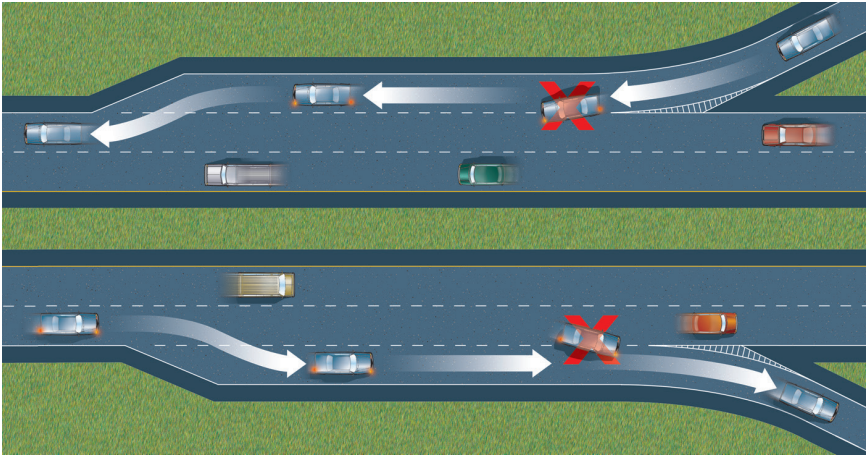
Limited access roads and other multi-lane highways in the city or country are designed for more convenient and safer driving.

However, they are safe only when motorists know and practice the following rules:

1. Plan your route before you use these roads. Follow your guide signs.
2. When approaching exits and interchanges, keep alert - read and obey the signs. Use the proper lanes for leaving or continuing on these highways. If changing lanes, make sure it is safe to do so and give the proper signal.
3. When entering the highway use the acceleration lane to increase speed when merging into through traffic. The driver on the road should be prepared to change to the left lane if it is safe to do so or slow down to allow traffic to enter the highway.
4. Use deceleration lanes to lower speed when exiting the highway.
5. Drive within the minimum and maximum limits unless the traffic or weather conditions make these limits unsafe. Remember, keep a safe following distance. Leave enough space for an emergency stop.
6. Never stop on the travelled portion of the roadway even if you miss an exit.



7. If you pass your exit, drive to the next one. Never back up on a highway.



Continuity lines

Continuity lines are painted on the highway at entry and exit ramps. They indicate the separation between the through lane and the entry/exit ramps. They are wider than the regular lane separation lines and are shown in the graphic.

Intersections

Modern interchanges involving roads which cross each other at different levels may be designed in a number of ways. For example, at a diamond interchange all exits from the main road are to the right. All turning movements are made at the intersections with the minor road.

Zipper Merge



A zipper merge is when a lane of traffic is ending and drivers in that lane are forced to merge into an adjacent one. Executing a zipper merge means going as far as you can in that ending lane until you reach the barrier and then merging with traffic into the other lane. On multi-lane highways or when lane closures are a result of construction or highway maintenance, zipper merging helps to keep the flow of traffic moving.