



Driving in Inclement Weather *It's Not Always Sunny in the Sunshine State*



The Florida Department of Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety urges motorists to enjoy safe holiday travel in the fall when planning a road trip. Be ready for a variety of weather conditions.

Turn Lights and Wipers On. Florida law requires that if a vehicle's wipers are in use, headlights must be on. To ensure high visibility, headlights should be clean and clear and wipers should be replaced at least once a year.

Do NOT Drive with Hazard Lights On. It is illegal to drive with the hazard lights on; however, it is common during heavy rain to see vehicles using them. Hazard lights should only be used to signal that a vehicle is STOPPED; therefore, they should only be used for vehicles that are parked on the shoulder of the road for an emergency stop or if stalled in the roadway.

Slow Down and Maintain a Steady Speed. Wet pavement can result in **skidding** and **hydroplaning**. Be patient and stay alert. Keep a safe stopping distance between vehicles and avoid passing and/or changing lanes. To avoid skidding, maintain traction by starting and stopping gradually and driving at steady speeds. Be gentle with brake pressure during slippery road conditions. If your vehicle begins to skid, do not press the accelerator, turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid, (be careful not to overcorrect) and aim at a distance to get the vehicle back on track.

Turn Around; Don't Drown. Never drive through flooded areas. The area of roadway beneath the water may be washed out or may conceal debris or even power lines.

Be Cautious of High Winds. Windy conditions are a driving risk to all vehicles, particularly high-profile vehicles such as buses and trucks. Use extra caution around vehicles carrying cargo. Strong wind can occur anywhere, but it can be more common in wide open spaces, including bridges and highway overpasses. Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel and give large vehicles extra room to maneuver.