# Severe weather driving tips: how to drive more safely in any condition.



When severe weather hits, the way you drive can mean the difference between arriving safely and getting stuck in a dangerous situation. Follow our severe weather driving tips for upcoming fog, rain, snow, and ice.

1. **Buckle up. It's the law.** Everyone in your vehicle should have their seat belt on at all times. Seat belts are especially critical during severe weather and dangerous conditions. If you have a pet in the car, consider buckling them in, too.

2. **Slow your roll.** Whether it's raining, icy, dark, windy, or snowy, slowing down is always a smart idea. Move to the farther right lanes if you want to drive slower than the flow of traffic and put your hazard lights on, if needed.

3. **Increase your following distance.** That goes for the car in front of you and the ones around you. Hang back further when conditions are slippery and avoid driving directly next to other vehicles to reduce the risk of collisions from hydroplaning or sliding. Never use cruise control when conditions aren't dry and visible.

4. **Plan out your trip.** Check the weather before heading out. Look at a detailed radar of precipitation, temperatures, and the storm's movement. Delay your drive, if possible, to leave in safer conditions.

5. **Keep a car emergency kit.** You never know when you'll need water, food, a flashlight, or a blanket. Stock your trunk with these emergency items. In addition, swap seasonal items in your vehicle for added safety, like a small shovel, salt, an ice scraper, boots, and an umbrella.

6. **Charge your device.** Never leave the house with a phone that's on low battery. If you experience a severe weather driving emergency and have to call for help, you'll need enough charge to do it.

7. **Don't drive into flooded areas.** According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "It only takes 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars, and just two feet of rushing water can carry away most trucks and SUVs." Don't drive through flooded areas or actively rushing water. Turn around.

8. **Keep an eye out for debris.** Trash, roadside debris, and flying objects could be loose during high winds or tornadic conditions. Look around you and far ahead in front of you when driving to spot these hazards before you reach them. Don't let distractions pull your eyes off the road or your surroundings.

9. **Service vehicle issues.** Burned-out headlights or taillights can put you in danger when there's reduced visibility. Repair any issues with your vehicle right away. Ensure your tires have enough tread for the upcoming season and top off fluid levels.

10. **Avoid leaving your vehicle after an accident.** If you get into an accident or need to pull off the road, don't step out near oncoming traffic. If possible, stay in your vehicle until emergency responders arrive.

Following these severe weather driving tips can help keep you, your loved ones, and other drivers safe. For more protection and peace of mind, talk to a local, independent agent about our comprehensive auto insurance policies.

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