



WINTER VEHICLE OPERATION

Winter driving is often the most difficult due to blowing snow, icy slick spots and fewer daylight hours. When on the road observe the following:

- **Buckle your seat belts!**
- **Be prepared to turn back and seek shelter if conditions become threatening.**
- **In fog, drive with your headlights set on dim or use foglights. If the fog is too dense, pull off the roadway and stop in a safe area where you can be seen by other vehicles.**
- **In rain, fog, snow or sleet, do not overdrive your headlights. Stay within the limits of your vision.**
- **Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Do not start until your windshield is defrosted.**
- **Drive slower and increase your following distance. Your speed should be adjusted for the road conditions and match the flow of traffic.**
- **Roadway conditions may vary depending on the sun, shade, or roadway surface. Watch for slick spots especially under bridges, on overpasses and in shaded spots. Be prepared to react physically and mentally.**
- **If the pavement is snow or ice covered, start slowly and brake gently. If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you feel you have regained traction then straighten your vehicle.**
- **When a snowplow is coming towards you, allow plenty of room for the plow to pass**
- **When you approach a snowplow from behind, pass with care and only when you can see the road ahead of the plow. You should not try to pass in blowing snow; there may be a vehicle in the cloud of snow.**
- **Be alert when you approach a cloud of snow, which covers the road, especially on passing lanes of interstates or freeways. A snowplow may be at work clearing the lane or preparing to turn around.**
- **Be careful after a minor rear end accident. If you are bumped from behind and you do not feel comfortable exiting your vehicle, motion the other driver and drive to the nearest police station, 24-hour store, service station, hospital or fire station. Do not pull over until it is safe to do so.**

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Washington Military Department,
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