



November Safety Tips – Drive Safely!

Prepare for the wet season ahead

Vehicle inspection should include tire tread and proper inflation as recommended by the manufacturer. Low tire tread can lead to hydroplaning, improper contact with roadway will cause loss of control of the vehicle steering, braking, or accelerating. Change wiper blades as needed and make sure headlights, turn signals, and brake lights are working properly.

Increase your vehicle spacing and decrease your speed for wet conditions. Posted speed limits are for ideal weather conditions. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, there are around 707,000 automobile crashes each year due to rain, resulting in approximately 3,300 deaths and 330,200 injuries.

Think.

Many people drive subconsciously, out of habit. When conditions are less than ideal, drivers need to stay alert and focused on what's going on around them.

Turn on those headlights.

It's the law in all states to turn on headlights when visibility is low, California (and many other states) also requires turning on the headlights when the windshield wipers are in use.

Beware of hydroplaning.

That's the technical term for what occurs when your tires are getting more traction on the layer of water on the road than on the road itself—the result is that your car begins to slide uncontrollably.

It's easy to hydroplane: All you need is one-twelfth of an inch of rain on the road and a speed of more than 35 miles per hour. If you start to hydroplane, let off the accelerator slowly and steer straight until you regain control.

Turn off cruise control.

Ironically, on rain—or snow—slick surfaces, cruise control may cause you to lose control. You might think it'll help you stay at one steady speed, but if you hydroplane while you're in cruise control, your car will actually compensate by going faster.

Slow down.

Speed limit signs are designed for ideal conditions. That's hardly the environment you're driving in when it's raining, so let up on the accelerator to increase your follow distance, and allow more time to get to your destination.

22350 CVC- Unsafe Speed for Conditions, **fine and court fees: \$234+**

22400 (c)(2) CVC- Headlamps required during inclement weather, **fine and court fees: \$50.00 to \$100.00+**