

7 Winter Weather Driving Tips for CMV Drivers

When winter weather arrives, it presents a big challenge for professional CMV drivers. Here are some winter driving tips that will help keep drivers safe and warm.

1. Carry proper supplies

CMV drivers should make sure they have cold weather essentials on hand. These include:

- extra clothing layers
- gloves
- flashlight
- rain gear
- windshield fluid
- blankets
- bag of sand or salt
- tire chains
- jumper cables
- snow scrapers and brushes

2. Slow Down

The slower you drive, the more time you have to react. Hydroplaning is also caused by going too fast. Avoid winter accidents by watching your speed.

3. Keep A Firm Grip On The Wheel

Grip the steering wheel firmly to maintain control. Keep both hands on the wheel at all times to guide the vehicle through snow and ice.

4. Allow Safe Space

In the winter, CMV drivers should increase their following distance. Be sure you have more than enough space to stop and maneuver in unexpected traffic situations.

5. Watch Out For Bridges

Bridges, highway overpasses, and other elevated surfaces freeze faster than the regular road. They also may not be salted. Use caution when approaching bridges to avoid spinning out of control on black ice.

6. Avoid Black Ice

Black Ice is not just found on bridges. It is a layer of transparent ice that makes the road look wet. Drivers can spot black ice when the spray from other vehicles stops. You can also watch for frost on your antennae and mirrors.

7. Brake Slowly

In winter, accelerate and brake slowly. If the CMV is not equipped with an ABS braking system, lightly pump the brakes when you need to slow down.

Always remember, a good CMV driver shuts down when there is too much ice, snow, limited visibility or driving winds.