**Winter Driving November safety Focus**

Winter time is fast upon us and we need to be in the winter driving mindset. The things that need attention before winter time sets in are the equipment condition, the equipment that we need. We also need to remember that winter driving requires more concentration.

**Equipment**

There are some very specific things that we should keep in the Truck and in good operating condition for winter driving.

1. **Tire Chains.** The amount of tire chains that you need to carry to cover all states will vary. You should have a minimum of 2, 3 rail and 2 singles for the truck and 2 singles for the trailer and 2 spares. (Tire chain tool make sure to have an extra one.) Each state has different ideas on what are the minimum chain requirements.
2. **Small shovel.** A small shovel is a very handy tool to have in the winter time to help dig out of deeper snow.
3. **Rain Gear**. A good set of rain gear is handy when working in the rain or chaining in the snow to help keep you warm and dry.
4. **Wet weather Boots and gloves**.Keeping your hands and feet dry is a good thing
5. **Extra Clothes.** It is a good Idea to carry extraclothes. Chaining up and working in the rain can be miserable it is more miserable if you’re wet and cold.
6. **Extra Food and water**. Make sure that you have extra food and water, enough for a couple of days if you get stranded.
7. **A good cold weather sleeping bag**. This can be a life saver if you get stuck and the truck will not run.
8. **Survival candle**. A lighted candle provides very little heat in the car. Candles may produce up to 75 to 85 BTUs per hour to be used for melting snow to drink. A multi-wick candle is claimed to keep the interior of a car comfortable for 24 hours. This product, which could be made at home, consists of a number of wicks in a paraffin/sawdust mixture poured into a shallow pan. It must be used with extreme care since several flames are burning at a time. The heat produced increases with the number of wicks burning.
9. **Flash light.** Extra battery’s also. Helps when working in the dark

**Driving Tip’s**

1. **Drive slower.** I know this sounds like a no brainerbut you would be surprised.
2. **Take corners slower.**  Especially if the weather is cold enough to freeze. The shady spots in the Corners may be frozen over Use caution.
3. **Allow more distance.** The more distance you have to react to a situation the better off you will be.
4. **Don’t Use Jake or Cruse.** If you know it’s slippery you should not be using your Jakes or the cruise control. If the Jakes engage on a slippery surface the tires will stop turning and making you lose traction.
5. **Accelerate slower.** Take your time if your wheels start spinning let off the accelerator to regain traction.
6. **DON’T Slam on the Brakes.** If your tires stop moving they have lost traction and you will be at the mercy of Inertia. You will not regain control until your wheels start turning depending on how slick the surface is.
7. **Approach hills with Momentum.** Do not stop while going uphill if you can keep from it. Try to keep a steady momentum if you can.
8. **Use traction Control devices.** If it is slick enough and you know you should have chains on then put on your chains. While travelling on tire chains make sure you don’t exceed 25 to 30 MPH. and if you can stop occasionally to check that they are tight. Running on loose chains can cause them to break it can also cause them to come off.
9. **Clear off windows and mirrors of snow and Ice.** It is important to see what is going on around you. Make sure you have winterized windshield washer fluid, nothing is worse than spraying on fluid and having it freeze.

**Tire Chain Laws**

Every state has different regulations regarding tire chains. Here is a list of links that should get you the information you will need

**List of states and chain requirements.**

<https://www.trucking.org/ATA%20Docs/What%20We%20Do/Trucking%20Issues/Documents/Engineering/Chain%20Laws%20-March%202014.pdf>

**Oregon**

<https://www.tripcheck.com/Pages/minimum-chain-requirements.asp>

**Washington**

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle/chain_req.htm>

**California**

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/ChainRequire.pdf>

**Summary**

The best thing we can do for winter driving is to be prepared. Make sure that our equipment is in good shape before we take off on our trip. Making sure we have the necessary equipment to take care of us in case of emergency. Making sure we have a Travel plan and allow for extra time in case of bad weather. or an emergency. Making sure we are allowing enough of a space cushion when the weather is bad. Though we cannot prepare for everything, we do need to prepare for the worst.

**Safety Meeting**

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name

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