

Wet Weather Driving Tips

Winter is upon us and for Roseville that means driving in the rain. According to AAA, wet pavement contributes to nearly 1.2 million traffic crashes a year. Here are a few tips to remember when driving in the rain.

Avoid Cruise Control

Most newer cars come with cruise control and is great in dry conditions. However, in wet conditions the chance of losing control of the vehicle can increase if you use it. To prevent loss of traction, the driver may need to reduce car speed by lifting off the accelerator which cannot be accomplished when cruise control is engaged. Avoiding cruise control will allow the driver more options to

choose from when responding to a potential loss-of-traction situation, thus maximizing your safety.

Slow Down and Leave Room

Slowing down during wet weather driving can be critical to reducing a car's chance of hydroplaning, when the tires rise up on a film of water.



With just 1/12 inch of water on the road, tires have to displace a gallon of water per second to keep the rubber meeting the road. Drivers need to reduce their speed to correspond to the amount of water on the roadway. At speeds of just 35 mph, new tires can still lose some contact with the

roadway. It's also important for motorists to allow ample stopping distance between cars and begin to slow down to stop for intersections, turns and other traffic early.

Responding to a Skid

Even if you're careful you may find yourself in a skid. If you begin to feel your car skid, it's important not to panic. Follow these basic steps:

- ⇒ Continue to look and steer in the direction in which you want the car to go.
- ⇒ Avoid slamming on the brakes, as this will further upset the vehicle's balance and make it hard to control.

2016 New DMV Laws

The start of a new year also brings a few new laws for California drivers. Here is a **partial** list from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

- **Earbuds or Headsets:** This law, among other things, makes it unlawful to wear a headset covering, earplugs in, or earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in, both ears, while operating a motor vehicle or a bicycle. This prohibition does not apply to persons operating authorized emergency vehicles, construction equipment and refuse or waste equipment while wearing a headset or safety earplugs.
- **California New Motor Voter Program,** creates an automatic voter registration process for qualified individuals who apply for a driver license or identification card, or submit a change of address to the DMV.
- **California Residency Requirement:** This law will require an applicant for an original driver license or identification card to provide proof of California state residency, starting July 1, 2016 and it will bring DMV into compliance with a federal law requirement. The DMV will need to adopt regulations relating to the procedures for verifying that the applicant is a California resident.
- **Electrically Motorized Skateboards:** This law defines "electrically motorized board," and restricts their operation on public facilities, requires boards to be equipped with safety equipment, and authorizes cities and counties to regulate their use. It also makes it a crime to operate an electrically motorized board while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In addition, the law limits the board's operation to individuals 16 years or older, requires operators to wear a bicycle helmet, wear safety equipment to increase visibility at night, and limits their operation to roads with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. A conviction for violating this law is punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

Standard versus ABS Brakes

Most modern cars today are equipped with ABS brakes. If you are driving an older model vehicle make sure you know if you have standard or ABS brakes

- **Standard brakes** are not designed to stop your car in skidding conditions. When you lock up standard brakes, you're no longer able to steer the car. Slamming on your brakes will make things worse and could cause the car to careen out of control. Don't apply the brakes until you have regained control of steering and your car has started to slow on its own.
- **Anti-Lock Brakes (ABS)** are designed to prevent losing control of the car in a skid situation. The car computer can detect when a tire is turning faster (trying to grip the surface) and will apply pressure to each individual brake up to 20 times a second. This allows you to slow the vehicle while still being able to steer to avoid a collision. With brakes pulsing rapidly the driver will feel a fluttering in the brake pedal. Many drivers, who are unfamiliar with ABS, will think something is wrong and take their foot off the brakes. That is a big mistake!. When applying anti-lock brakes in a skidding situation, you should expect to feel the brakes fluttering under your foot and understand that the system is operating correctly.

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Driving in Hazardous Conditions

Fog

Driving in heavy fog is like driving with a blindfold on. Statistically it's amongst the most dangerous driving hazard. The best advice for driving in fog is don't.



Consider postponing your trip. However, the simple and safe solution is not always practical. If you have to drive in the fog here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- Drive slowly and use your low-beam headlights. The light from the high beams will reflect back and cause a glare. Whatever you do don't turn off your headlights.
- Never drive with **just** your parking or fog lights.

- Increase your following distance and be prepared to stop within the space you can see ahead. Don't cross or pass traffic unless absolutely necessary. Listen for traffic you cannot see.
- Use your wipers and defroster as necessary for best vision.
- If you leave the road, be sure to pull off completely. Turn off your driving lights and turn on your flashers so others know you're there but won't think you are driving on the road.

Remember no matter how important a trip is, it's not worth your life. In thick fog the safest thing to do is pull well off the road and wait for the fog to lift.

Emergency Kit

Are you prepared for a roadside emergency? You never know when an emergency may arise. Here are a few suggestions on what to put in your kit.

- Flashlight
- Mats that can be placed under tires to increase traction
- Small bag of sand, salt, or kitty litter to spread around tires to increase traction
- Shovel
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Window-washing solvent to keep the reservoir filled and windshields clean
- Warning devices—flares or triangles
- Cellular phone (with charger)

If you are planning to travel in the mountains, it is especially important to be prepared. Check your kit before a trip and replenish any needed supplies.



Lottery Scam

Last year the "New Year Google Lotto" scam was designed to trick recipients into sending their personal information and money by claiming that they were the winner of the Google 2015 Lotto. However, the email message was not sent by Google and was a scam.

This type of lottery scam asked you to send your personal information and subsequently asked you to send money in order to receive a prize.

Tip:
Guard your personal information. If you are asked to send money in order to get money, it is probably a scam. Remember, if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Slow down during inclement weather.

The US Department of Transportation states there are 707,000 automobile crashes each year due to rain, resulting in approximately 3,300 deaths and 330,200 injuries.

Sources: Federal Trade Commission (FTC), American Automobile Association (AAA), California Department of Motor Vehicle (CADMV)

Police Department
1051 Junction Blvd.
Roseville CA 95678
(916) 774-5000
www.roseville.ca.us/police

Call 9-1-1
EMERGENCY
IN PROGRESS

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Community Events & Neighborhood Watch
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PDCommunityServices@roseville.ca.us
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Police News & Crime Alert Emails:
www.roseville.ca.us/enotify
RCONA
(Roseville Coalition Of Neighborhood Associations)
www.RCONA.org

