

DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS

The speed limit isn't always a safe speed.
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WEATHER CONDITIONS

Rain - When the road is wet or slippery, there should be at least 4 seconds between you and the car in front.

Fog - in fog, keep your headlights on dip and increase your following distance.

High Winds – Take extra care in extreme wind. Strong gusts reduce your vehicle's stability and can move it sideways across its lane.

Bright Sun - Sunstrike can suddenly reduce your vision, especially in winter and at dawn/dusk when the sun is low in the sky. Wear sunglasses, use your sun visor and slow to a safe speed until you can clearly see the road ahead of you.

Snow and Ice - In snow and ice it takes longer to stop when you brake and you're more likely to lose control.

- Increase your following distance to 8 seconds.
- To avoid skidding, brake using a few pumps of the pedal, rather than one hard push.

STOPPING DISTANCES

At 50km/hr a car takes 30 metres to stop on a dry road and 40 metres on a wet road – an extra 10 metres.

At 100km/hr a car takes 93 metres to stop on a dry road and 124 metres on a wet road – an extra 31 metres.

At 90km/hr a truck-trailer unit will take more than twice as far to stop as a car. That's about two rugby fields!

OTHER ROAD USERS

Slow down and take particular care:

- At holiday times when there are visitors on the roads who are unsure where they are going and may drive slower, turn unexpectedly or stop suddenly.
- When you're sharing the road with cyclists – they have no protection if there is a crash.
- At road works – driving too fast puts other drivers and road workers at risk from flying stones and out of control vehicles.
- Where there are lots of pedestrians, e.g. near schools, sports grounds and shopping centres.

If you hit a pedestrian at 30km/hr they are likely to survive. At 50km/hr there's a 70% chance they'll die.

ON RURAL ROADS EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Take it easy on rural roads. Around the next corner or over the next hill be prepared to meet:

- Tractors, farm machinery and farm bikes
- Stock being driven or roaming
- Milk tankers, stock trucks, logging trucks
- Wildlife – goats, large birds
- Slips or trees on the road

WINDING OR UNSEALED ROADS

Twice as many crashes happen on bends than on straights. 100 km per hour is too fast on winding and narrow roads where you can't see far ahead.

- Slow down as you approach bends and accelerate out.
- Always keep left – oncoming drivers may cross the centre line, especially near tourist destinations.
- Reduce speed on gravel surfaces – it's easy to lose control if you are going too fast.



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