

# Winter Driving Safety

## Tailgate Meeting Guide



Share this information before shifts or in meetings. You can also print and post. Use the **tailgate meeting checklist** to get started. Encourage meeting participants to discuss their personal experiences and provide input on safe winter driving practices.

### Reading the Road in Winter Conditions

Snow, ice, rain and cold temperatures make road conditions hazardous. Knowing how to read the road in winter will help you anticipate and safely respond to changing road conditions. Follow these tips:

#### 1. Look at the snow and tire spray.

- White snow on the vehicle's grill vehicle means limited traction.
- If there's less spray, but the road looks wet it means the road is beginning to freeze.
- A coarse spray with ice crystals can signal a freezing road and ice.
- A slushy, brown spray usually means good traction.

#### 2. Be aware of day or night temperatures and conditions that can cause black ice to form.

- When temperatures fluctuate between +5 ° and -5° C, watch for black ice.
- Shaded areas, bridges and overpasses freeze sooner in colder temperatures.
- Light snow on the road, or a rainy day or night could mean ice the following morning if temperatures drop below freezing.

#### 3. Remember that road surfaces react differently to cold, snow and ice. Asphalt can sometimes provide less traction than concrete.

### Adjust your driving in winter conditions

Slow down and maintain a safe braking distance. Avoid aggressive braking and steering, and be prepared to correct a temporary loss of vehicle control especially when encountering these areas:

- Climbing uphill - assess the conditions and use chains if needed. Maintain your momentum and if drive wheels spin, ease back on the throttle.
- Travelling downhill - if you suspect traction may be weak chain up beforehand, reduce speed and brake evenly and gently.
- Rounding a curve - drop below the speed limit before entering the curve, and avoid braking in the curve.

### Know before you go

Check the latest highway conditions and weather reports for your area of travel:

- Visit [DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca) to see real-time highway conditions.
- Call toll-free 1-800-550-4997 for 24-hour BC road information.
- Work with your dispatcher, especially during severe weather advisories, to plan the safest routes.
- Visit [ShiftIntoWinter.ca](http://ShiftIntoWinter.ca) for more winter driving tips and workplace resources.



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Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number on Shift: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other safety issues or suggestions made by participants:**

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**Record of those attending:**

Name (please print)	Signature	Company
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**Manager's remarks:**

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Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

(signature)

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