

Winter Driving Tips



A message from Department of Human Resources

California Highway Patrol reports that California has not had a day without a traffic fatality since September 12, 2000. Last fiscal year there were 100 County of San Diego employees injured in on-the-job motor vehicle accidents, either as passengers or drivers. Winter weather conditions increase the risk of accidents, as do increases in the number of vehicles on the road, aggressive driving and drivers distracted by non-driving activities.

Here are some tips to help you **survive** the drive:

- ◆ **WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT.** Safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45% and reduce the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50%.
- ◆ **SLOW DOWN.** We are used to driving certain speeds on certain roads and we sometimes forget the need to slow down when inclement weather presents itself.
- ◆ **RAIN** reduces your car's stopping ability and increases the risk of hydroplaning and skidding. A car needs two-to-three times more stopping distance on wet pavement.
- ◆ **ROADWAYS** are usually most slippery during the first few minutes of rain fall because the rain is blending with oil and rubber-dust deposits on the road surface.
- ◆ **VISIBILITY.** Check that your windshield wipers are working efficiently, you have plenty of washer fluid and wiper blades are replaced at least once a year.
- ◆ **TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS.** Not only do they help you see the road, but they will also help other drivers see you.
- ◆ **TIRES.** Check that your tires are in good condition, have adequate tread and are properly inflated.
- ◆ Get an **EARLY START** and allow plenty of time to get to your destination. Be calm and courteous.

If you are interested in additional safe driver training, Loss Prevention's lending library has training videos available. Call (858) 694-2786 to reserve a video for your next safety meeting. Check the WSSH website for the corresponding Word Search and Answer Key.