

Winter is *NOT* Over Yet!

Although this has been a relatively “warm” winter we all know that we are subject to a “snow event” that could produce significant amount of snow and ice accumulation throughout many areas of the United States and Canada. This accumulation has the potential of causing property damage and injury to other motorists when it is dislodged from automobiles, straight trucks, intermodal containers, large trucks, trailers and buses during travel.



A handful of states have enacted laws requiring motorists to remove all ice and snow from vehicles before driving. In some states, minimal fines are incurred for failing to do so; and in others, motorists are fined up to \$1,250 if snow or ice falls from their vehicle, causing injury or property damage.

The most recent survey conducted by the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) found that 35 percent of the motor carrier respondents had experienced an incident in which snow or ice falling from their vehicle caused either bodily injury or property damage to another vehicle. Insurance claims resulted from 65 percent of the reported incidents. Still, more than half of all respondents reported that they never or rarely removed accumulated snow and ice from trailer tops.

Safe Winter Driving Tips

- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights – even the hood and roof – before driving.
- Pay attention. Do not try to out-drive the conditions. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. The law requires you to slow down or move over when approaching emergency or maintenance vehicles, including snowplows, parked on the side of the road when they have their flashing lights turned on. If you approach a parked emergency or maintenance vehicle during a winter storm and decide to change lanes be extra careful. The passing lane may be in worse shape than the driving lane. There may also be a snow ridge between the two lanes. Avoid making an abrupt lane change. If approaching a snowplow, stay back at least 200 feet (it's the law!), and don't pass on the right.
- Know the current road conditions.
- Use brakes carefully. Brake early. Brake correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
- Watch for slippery bridge decks, even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition. Bridge decks will ice up sooner than the adjacent pavement.
- Do not use your cruise control in wintry conditions. Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Do not pump anti-lock brakes. If your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes, do not pump brakes in attempting to stop. The right way is to “stomp and steer!”
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by other vehicles will alert you quicker to problems and give you a split-second extra time to react safely.
- ***Go slow!***

It was found that worker hazards associated with clearing snow and ice from the tops of commercial motor vehicles, the limited availability and efficacy of snow removal devices, and the lack of available vehicle-based solutions have challenged the ability to effectively address the safety concerns posed by accumulation on vehicles.

In response to its findings, ATRI has started a three-stage campaign to notify motorists of these dangers.

1. The short-term goal is to educate operators of all vehicle types through public outreach.
2. The mid-term action will look into installation of snow removal devices at weigh stations and ports of entry. The insurance industry will track the frequency of claims due to falling ice and snow.
3. Long-term investigations will concentrate on potential vehicle-based solutions that prevent or impede snow and ice accumulation.



You can help reduce property damage and injury to other motorists by informing your drivers of the safety risks posed by snow and ice accumulation on their trucks and trailers. For more information or to receive a copy of this ATRI report, visit:

<http://www.atri-online.org/research/results/ATRITRBSnowIce.pdf>

Registration is now open on line for the 2012 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminars!

Upcoming seminars to be held in March:

- March 13- Madison, WI
- March 14- Youngstown, OH
- March 15- Cleveland, OH
- March 20- Ventura, CA
- March 21- Los Angeles, CA
- March 22- Santa Fe Springs, CA
- March 27- Atlanta, GA
- March 28- Chattanooga, TN
- March 29- Nashville, TN

NEW FOR 2012 SEMINARS!!!!

This year during the seminar you will receive Drug and Alcohol Supervisor Training. This training meets the requirements of FMCSA CFR 382.603 that requires all supervisors of commercial motor vehicle drivers to have the training for reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing.

To view the full schedule of all seminars in 2012 and to register for a seminar click on:

www.Idealease.com/safety