



Idealease Safety Bulletin

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“O Say Can You See?”

Not only is this the beginning verse of the United States National Anthem, it is also a question that drivers must ask themselves when operating any type of vehicle. Our sight and vision of the road and surroundings is instrumental when operating a vehicle in a safe manner, without causing damage or injury to you or the motoring public that you are in close proximity with on the roadway.

During a road trip to an adjoining state this week with a colleague, we saw a number of vehicles that were putting themselves, as well as the rest of us, in danger by not operating their vehicle safely in low visibility such as rain and nighttime conditions.

Nighttime: Nighttime driving is more difficult because visibility is reduced. However, low visibility conditions often occur during the day, caused by heavy snowfall, downpours, thick fog, and blowing dust or smoke.

Follow these safety tips for driving in low visibility conditions:

- Slow down. Disengage your cruise control. Most accidents occur because the driver is going too fast for the weather conditions.
- Use your low beams. High beams will disperse in thick fog or snow, making visibility worse for you and other drivers.
- Make sure that all of your lights are clear of bugs, dirt, road film, etc. to give you and other motorists the highest level of visibility and sight.
- Avoid entering an area if you cannot see a safe distance ahead.
- If you suddenly encounter a severe loss of visibility, pull off the pavement as far as possible. Stop, turn off your lights, set the emergency brake and take your foot off the brake to be sure the taillights are not illuminated. Turn on your emergency flashers.
- If you can't pull off the roadway, slow down, turn on your low beam headlights and sound the horn occasionally. Use the white fog line or roadside reflectors if necessary to help guide you.
- Never stop in the travel lanes.



Rain: People do not realize just how dangerous this can be. They tend to drive too fast. When you are driving a truck look in your mirror next time it rains and watch just how much water spray you generate from your tires.



There is enough to blind the driver behind you. Also, remember what you were taught, that you can hydroplane even at 35 mph, so please do yourself and others a favor and drive at a safe speed in the rain. Be aware when bobtailing a tractor in rain and applying the brakes. Without the trailer, the braking power is disproportionate and can cause the vehicle to go into a spin and lose control. There have been many trucks jackknifed because they were going too fast and needed to

make a sudden stop. You will slide even quicker, when you have a light load. Also, when passing another vehicle, make sure you have enough room to return back into the lane.

There have been many trucks that come into the lane too soon and cause the other vehicle to go off the road. Water spray is what causes you, the driver, to misjudge your distance and you may be the next one to cause an accident if you aren't paying attention when passing. Also, watch for those curves, especially in the rain!

Question of the Week

I am driving a Commercial Motor Vehicle on my route and now encounter adverse driving conditions. Is there any relief for the hours of service requirements?

Answer: Yes; a driver who encounters adverse driving conditions, as defined in CFR 395.2 and cannot, because of those conditions, safely complete the run within the maximum driving time permitted by CFR 395.3(a) or 395.5(a) may drive and be permitted or required to drive a commercial motor vehicle for not more than 2 additional hours in order to complete that run or to reach a place offering safety for the occupants of the commercial motor vehicle and security for the commercial motor vehicle and its cargo.

However, that driver may not drive or be permitted to drive for more than 13 hours in the aggregate following 10 consecutive hours off duty for drivers of property-carrying commercial motor vehicles after the end of the 14th hour since coming on duty following 10 consecutive hours off duty for drivers of property-carrying commercial motor vehicles.

Daylight Savings Time Change in Two Weeks!!

Daylight savings time will "fall back" at 2:00am on Sunday, November 4th.

Make sure that all of your drivers are aware that the change to daylight savings will occur. Caution route drivers especially, that the amount of daylight will change according to their stops with the change. An intersection or street can present different challenges to drivers with one hour change in the position of the sun. One hour of time difference can present unique changes to a driver who is on a route.

It's Time to Fall Back!!

