

# MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT SAFETY BLITZ!

## WEATHER

31 OCTOBER - 4  
NOVEMBER 2022



### **DON'T BE A STATISTIC. WEATHER IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN TRAFFIC INJURIES AND DEATHS.**

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) reports more than 5.8 million vehicle crashes occur each year based on data from 2007-2016. About 21% (1.2 million) of those involved hazardous weather. Weather has been attributed to almost 6k traffic deaths per year.



### **STAY WEATHER AWARE. KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DRIVING INTO.**

Truck drivers can experience multiple weather patterns in the span of a trip. From blizzards to high winds to severe storms, a driver should know what he/she is driving towards. Dispatchers and driver managers are not always aware of weather conditions, so the driver must always be prepared.



### **SLIPPERY WHEN WET. WET ROADS JUST AREN'T SAFE.**

Wet pavement and rain are the top two contributors to weather-related automobile crashes, followed by winter weather hazards and fog. Wet pavement accounts for about 70% of crashes and rainfall makes up about 46%.



### **WEATHER IMPACTS SAFE DRIVING. ALL WEATHER CAN CAUSE ISSUES.**

All forms of weather (fog, ice, rain, snow, and wind) can impact driving. Weather can cause inconvenience, delays, major accidents, roadway closures, and in some instances, death.



### **DON'T GET CAUGHT SLIPPING. BRAKING ABILITY LESSENS IN BAD WEATHER. BE AWARE.**

A vehicle's ability to suddenly brake becomes extremely impaired during bad weather. Rain, snow, and ice on the roads can cause a vehicle to require up to 10x longer to stop.



Don't forget to post your pictures on Facebook! Use #SafetyBlitz2022 and tag ATA Comp Fund or Alliance Interstate Risk for your chance to win prizes!



#SB22 PLAYLIST

# STAY AWARE. IT'S EVEN OKAY TO STOP.

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Don't try to outrun the bad weather. If you need to stop to wait it out, STOP. Here are some tips to help drivers remember that driving in bad weather can be dangerous – and even deadly.

- Monitor and be aware of weather patterns in the area you are driving or heading towards.
  - Utilize a CB radio with a built-in weather scanner or download a weather app to view when you are not driving.
  - Keep a safe distance during hazardous weather. A rule of thumb for following distance for a truck is 7-14 seconds. Trucks need 40% more stopping time.
  - Avoid tire spray. Wet or stormy weather can produce debris that kicks up. Install mud flaps on trucks to shield the undercarriage... and protect other vehicles on the road.
  - Don't speed or slam on brakes during wet conditions. Slow speed to 15mph and gently tap brakes to avoid losing control.
- Light it up. Make sure other vehicles can see you. Choose lighting solutions such as halogen or LED lights. Truck lights with heating elements can also help in snowy conditions help drivers see clearer.
  - In cold weather, if you see ice beginning to form on mirrors or windshield and the temperature is dropping, consider parking the truck immediately.
  - If you encounter strong winds, reduce your speed or park the truck and wait out the storm.
  - It is your decision to continue driving or park the truck if weather conditions are hazardous or beginning to deteriorate.

# LESSONS LEARNED. THIS IS REAL LIFE.

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## JANUARY 2020

Team drivers traveling in snow and icy conditions were given approval by driver manager to initiate trip despite road conditions. Claimant was sleeping in sleeper bunk with the harness up. Driver was going 10 MPH under the posted speed limit due to weather conditions, but driver hit black ice and lost control of the truck. Driver suffered fatal injuries from the accident.

## MAY 2021

Driver was traveling along a rural, tree-lined road in stormy conditions. A tree snapped and fell across the road as the driver was passing through, landing on the truck with enough force to fatally injure the driver.

## FEBRUARY 2022

Driver was driving on wet roads due to a recent rain. Driver was going 55 MPH into a curve and lost control of the truck. When trying to correct his course, he overcorrected and ended up rolling the truck down an embankment. Driver sustained multiple fractures and lacerations, resulting in numerous surgeries and an eventual amputation of his leg.

