Road Safety At Work

Practical BC Winter Driving Tips

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Introducing today's presenters



Angelina Robinson

Client Relationship Manager



Amrit Minhas

Road Safety Technical Manager

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Winter driving statistics

Driving in the winter is dangerous in BC

*Worker injuries from crashes increase by 19.2%





Every 2 min there is a crash in December



25,933 crashes in December

November & December Highest crash months



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*WorkSafeBC statistics 2020 through 2024

Natural Facts

- Colder temperatures
- More precipitation
- Less daylight

Usual driving hazards, magnified

Increased probability and severity

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Important realities for drivers

1. Less visibility
   - Harder to recognize hazards
   - Less distance to react

2. Less traction
   - Takes more distance to stop
   - Tires don’t respond as well to steering, braking

Overview

1. Tips, tools, resources
2. Prepare you to respond to winter driving hazards
3. Driver/journey/vehicle approach
4. Questions and answers



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Preparing your vehicle for winter driving

Essential winter preparation

For vehicles

- Pre-winter maintenance check
- Install winter wiper blades
- Winter windshield washer fluid
- Check emergency kit and in-car winter supplies



Link to Winter Driving Safety - For drivers

Install winter tires



- 3-peaked mountain snowflake
- Better traction
- It’s the law



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Prepare yourself for winter driving

Attitude is everything



Don't

- Over-estimate your abilities
- Be over-confident
- Be impatient

Do

- Know your skills, and limitations
- Have respect for risks
- Show patience

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Sharpen your skills

Start practicing today

- Smooth steering
- Gentle braking, acceleration
- Steady focus

Rebuild muscle memory

Your employer is responsible for training



Proper clothing

Dress for comfort while driving

Dress for warmth once you're parked

Stay warm

Stay in control

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Driving tips for winter weather

Clear your windshield before you go

See and be seen

- Turn on defogger
- Clear the entire vehicle
- Clear off the lights



Pay attention to your thermometer



At 7◦ C

and below winter tires work better

5◦ C to -5◦ C

critical zone

Rural often colder than urban

Varies with elevation, geography

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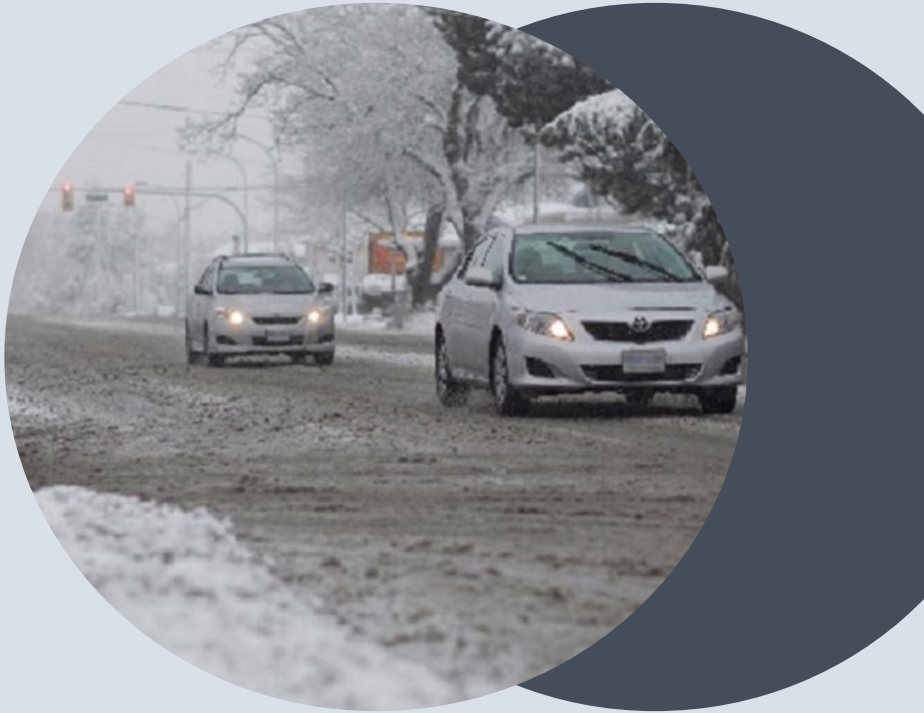
Beware the (slippery) beaten path

Vehicles driving in same track create strips of ice

- Snow and/or sleet conditions
- On highways, at intersections
- Better traction to left or right
- Ease off gas, gently apply brakes, give more space

Winter serves terrible slushies

- Unpredictable traction
- Slow down, use bare pavement
- Don’t spray pedestrians, cyclists
- Big rigs can throw a lot of slush
- Give plow trucks room



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Expect black ice

What it is

- Clear ice on top of black pavement
- Pavement looks shiny or wet

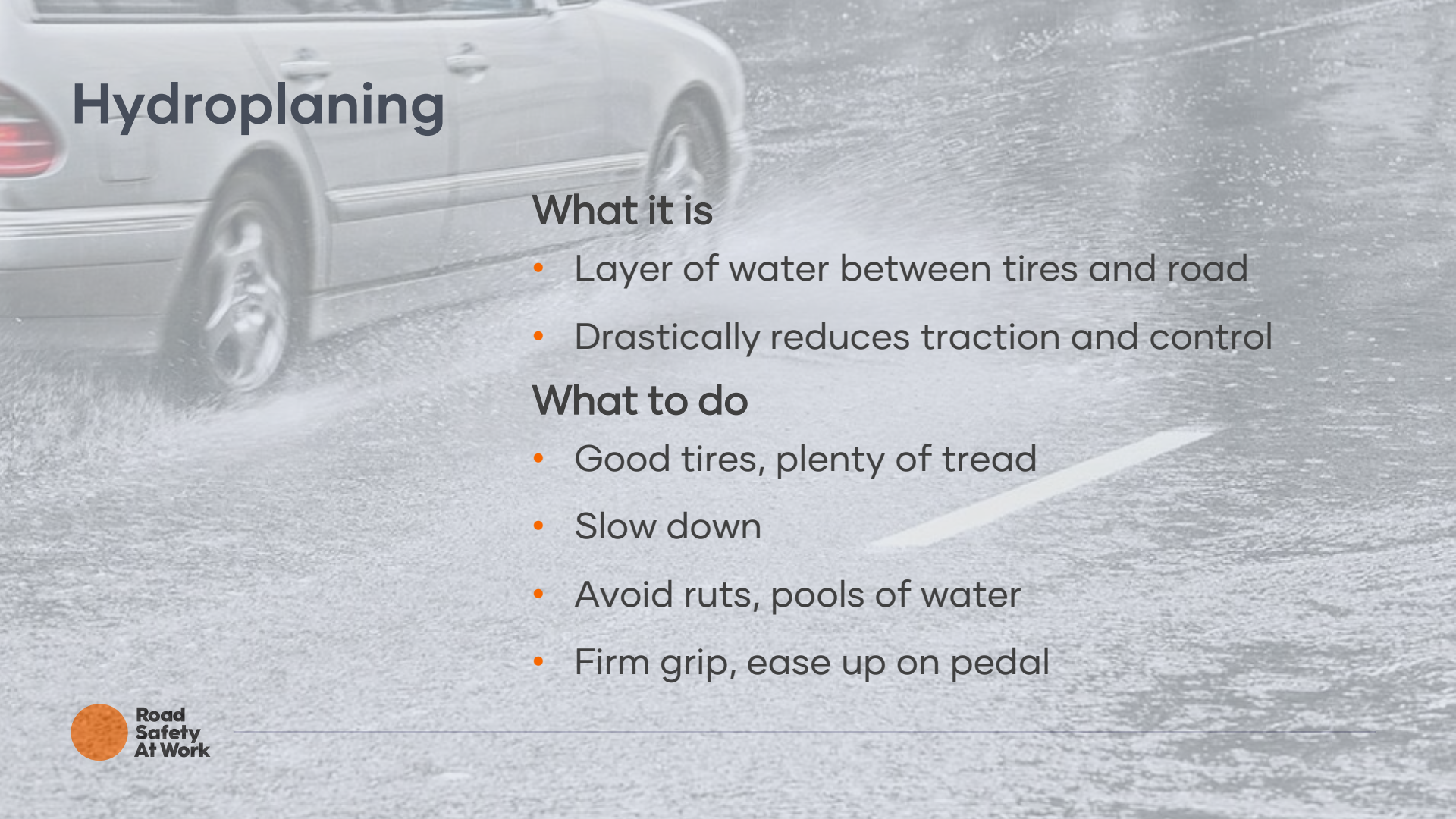
When and where to expect it

- Thawing during day, freezing at night
- Early mornings, shaded areas
- Bridges and overpasses



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Hydroplaning



What it is

- Layer of water between tires and road
- Drastically reduces traction and control

What to do

- Good tires, plenty of tread
- Slow down
- Avoid ruts, pools of water
- Firm grip, ease up on pedal

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Finding your way through fog

- Use headlights (low beams) and tail lights
- Drive for the conditions
- Slow down - Give yourself extra time to respond to the unexpected
- If necessary, find safe place to pull over

Questions



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Best practices for winter driving

Be vigilant, anticipate

Vigilance

- Pay attention to driving environment
- Active scanning: look for and see hazards

Anticipation

- Recognize risks
- Understand what might happen next
- Be prepared with the right response



Link to SkillCheck Driver Assessment Tool

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Drive smoothly

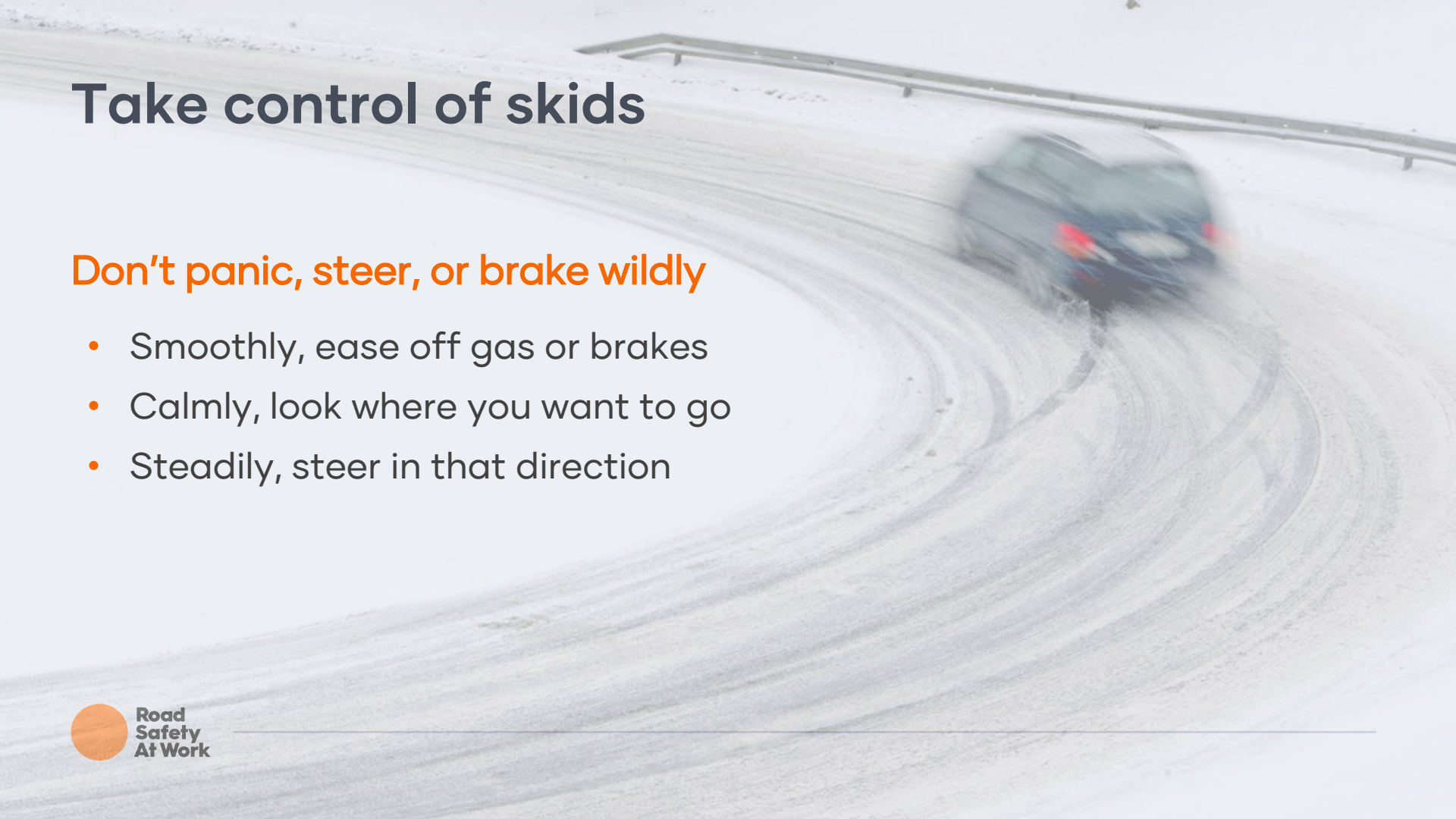
Smooth driving helps maintain traction

- Gentle on the brakes
- Easy on the gas
- Smooth steering



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Take control of skids



Don’t panic, steer, or brake wildly

- Smoothly, ease off gas or brakes
- Calmly, look where you want to go
- Steadily, steer in that direction

Signal your intentions

City

- 5 seconds or 75 metres

Highway

- 5 - 7 seconds



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Watch for pedestrians and cyclists

- Not looking
- Rushing
- Be vigilant, patient, courteous
- Assume they don’t see you
- Give extra margin of safety



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Journey management for winter driving

Manage journeys to reduce risks

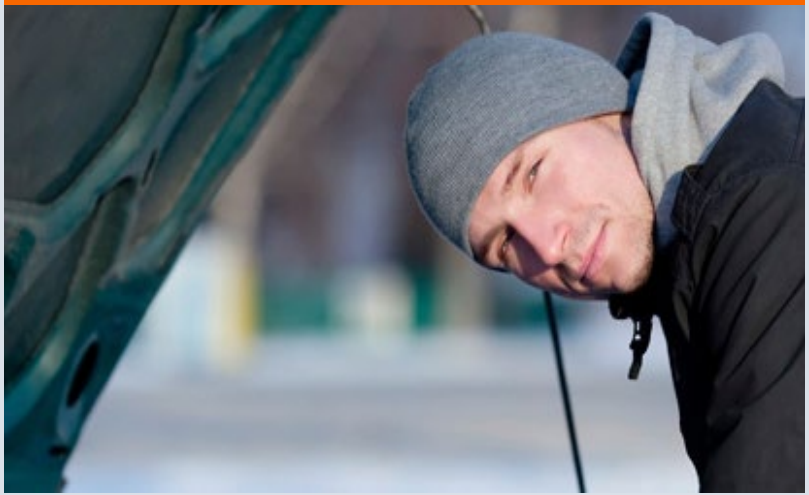
You have choices

- Refuse unsafe work
- Get work done without driving

You have responsibilities

- Minimize exposure to risky driving conditions

Is driving necessary?



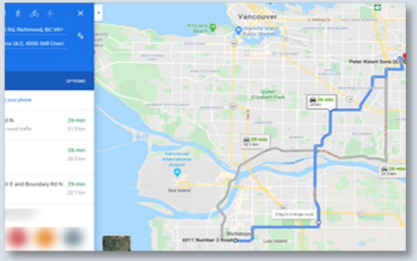
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Plan safer winter trips

- Check conditions
- Plan your route
- Allow enough time
- Take breaks
- Expect delays

BRITISH COLUMBIA | DriveBC
www.drivebc.ca

DriveBC road conditions



Google Maps
route planning



Local weather
conditions

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Journey management resources

Journey management and Trip Planning Tool Kit

Link to resource

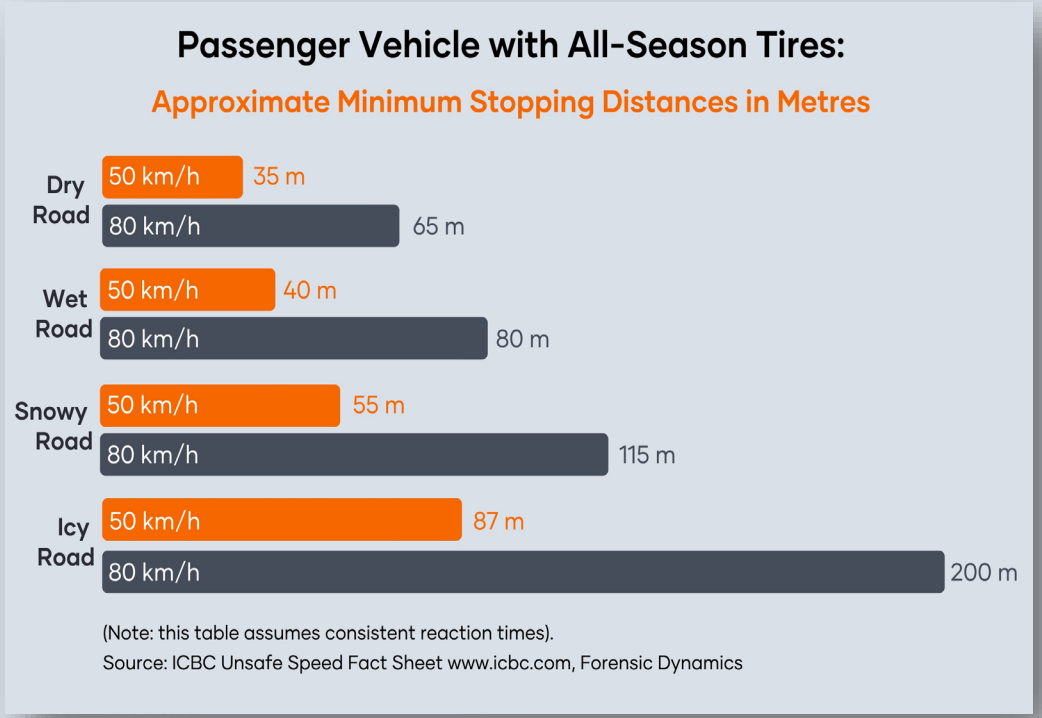
TripCheck

Link to resource

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While you're on the road

- Lights on
- Reduce speed
- Increase following distance
- Be prepared
- Best attitude



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Summary

- Winter weather increases driving risks
- Prepare your vehicle, and yourself
- Drive for conditions – smooth and steady
- Adapt attitude for winter driving
- Plan safer winter trips



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Questions



Contact us with your questions



Amrit Minhas

aminhas@roadsafetyatwork.ca

Road Safety Technical Manager



Angelina Robinson

arobinson@roadsafetyatwork.ca

Client Relationship Manager

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Online courses

Become a Safer Winter Driver

Link to resource

Making Winter Driving Safer for your Employees

Link to resource

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Thank you

For more information visit:
RoadSafetyAtWork.ca

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