

# SAFE DRIVING

# Matters

**MONTLICK &  
ASSOCIATES**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Information and Tips to Protect You and Your Family

## Guide to Severe Weather Driving



### *Important Survival Skills When the Roadways Get Treacherous!*

*Driving on Georgia's busy roadways is always a challenge, but even more so when severe weather hits. Heavy rain, ice, sleet, and snow all require extra caution behind the wheel. Following these safety tips can help reduce the risk of a serious car accident, and help keep you, your passengers and all others safe on the road.*

Severe weather invariably makes driving more dangerous, and can significantly increase your risk of being involved in a serious car crash. The safest practice is to *stay home* if at all possible. But if it's not possible— and you *must* drive in severe weather— please follow the safe practices below.

### Before Heading Out in Poor Conditions

- **Allow Extra Time.** Expect delays and always allow extra time to get to your destination.
- **Test Windshield Wipers & Fluids.** Make sure your windshield wipers work properly; that they don't streak, and you have plenty of wiper fluid.
- **Check Your Tires.** Check to see if your tires are properly inflated and in good condition before you drive on wet, slippery roads.
- **Winter Driving Provisions.** The GOHS advises that all motorists have at least a half tank of gas, carry a freshly charged phone; and pack warm clothes, a blanket and a working flashlight. These items will help you if you get stranded. Remember that it might take emergency services longer to get to you because of poor travel conditions and increased number of travelers needing their help.



*Drivers who fly by and fail to slow down in rain, sleet and snow, put themselves and others at great risk.*

to keep both hands on the wheel for greater control.

- **Slow Down.** Bad weather makes routine driving maneuvers difficult, including staying on the road, stopping and avoiding collisions. Simply slowing down can help prevent catastrophic accidents.
- **Keep Proper Distance.** Stopping takes longer on any slippery surface, so never tailgate or follow too closely. Always give yourself an increased margin of safety by allowing more room between you and the car ahead.
  - **Keep Headlights On.** This will make you more visible to other drivers .
  - **Never Slam On Your Brakes.** If you find yourself sliding or losing control, take your foot off the gas and resist the temptation to slam on the brakes. Sudden braking will eliminate what little traction you have.
  - **Accelerate Slowly.** Gentle pressure on the gas pedal is the best method of retaining tractions and avoiding skids.
- **Don't Use Cruise Control.** This feature is designed for normal driving conditions. Using cruise control when driving on any wet, slippery surface can cause wheel-spin and loss of vehicle control.

Sources: GOHS, AAA

### When Underway in Severe Weather

- **Pay Full Attention.** Driving in hazardous conditions requires your full attention. Avoid distractions and be sure

These are just a few things you can do to protect your family from serious car accidents while driving in severe weather. Please visit [Montlick.com](http://Montlick.com) or [Help-KeepKidsSafe.org](http://Help-KeepKidsSafe.org) and click on "Family Safety and Legal Tips," to see our latest safety videos and downloadable materials, and to register for Free Safety Alerts.

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