

Winter driving



Facts:

- Poor weather in the winter months can lead to difficulties when driving;
- Snow, ice, rain and reduced daylight hours all create driving hazards;
- Research shows the risk of a road traffic accident substantially increases during severe weather;
- **If you think it is unsafe to drive then report this to your manager. You will be supported.**

Winter driving tips:

- If the forecast or conditions are severe, only drive if your journey is absolutely necessary;
- Plan your journey in advance, and allow longer to get where you are going;
- Pack warm clothing, a blanket, adequate footwear and a torch in the car – *remember your car is not your coat*;
- Make sure your phone is fully charged before you begin your journey;
- Allow up to ten minutes to properly prepare your car for driving before you set out in cold weather;
- Increase the distance from the vehicle in front when driving on icy or snow covered roads – stopping distances are 10 times longer in snow;
- Accept that delays may occur and **put your safety before punctuality**.

Your vehicle:

- Keep your windscreen clean on the inside and out – low sun can dazzle during the winter;
- Use the air conditioning as well as the heater to demist the windscreen;
- Make sure the wiper blades are in good condition and do not use wipers to clear snow from the windscreen;
- Make sure your battery is in good condition and properly charged. If in doubt contact MITIE Fleet;
- Check your tyre pressure and depth (including the spare); deeper tread will clear water;
- Check all bulbs, at least weekly, and change any that need replacing;
- Make sure you have enough fuel for your journey; stop start driving will use more fuel.

CONCLUSION:

Be aware of the hazards that severe winter weather may create when driving. During severe conditions only drive if your journey is absolutely necessary. Always plan your journey, allow longer to get where you are going and make sure your vehicle is well maintained throughout winter.

NOTE: If you have any questions regarding this information please contact your Manager or QHSE Manager