

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT N°13

WINTER DRIVING



Traditionally at this time of year the leaves are on the ground; the weather can be very wet and it is increasingly getting colder. As a result of this there is often a sharp increase in accidents – in particular, road traffic accidents.

All employees are advised to be aware of these conditions and expect their work to become more hazardous as a result. It is vital that these risks are not ignored and are properly assessed and controlled. The following points are examples of the most prominent and foreseeable risks and advice on how to reduce them:

1. You must ensure your vehicle is in good condition i.e. Lights (working and clean), brakes, tyres (good tread or winter tyres), wipers (in good condition), screen wash is full with correct fluid & coolant is the correct specific gravity.
2. Remember to slow down and leave at least a 2 second gap between you and the car in front (much more in wet or icy conditions). Lower sun – if the sun is shining in your face, lower your visor and wear sunglasses to reduce the glare.
3. Leaves on the road reduce grip, can hide potholes and poor road surfaces. Take more care to prevent sharp braking causing the car to skid and adjust your speed accordingly.
4. Wet roads reduce grip and increase the stopping distances. You must remember to slow down and leave a larger gap between you and the car in front.
5. Icy roads will increase the risk further. Driving in these conditions should be minimised as far as possible. If you do have to drive remember to clear your windows and mirrors of mist and ice before setting off and leave a much larger gap between you and the car in front.
6. MVB JV has an obligation to keep roads and walkways safe and clear of ice and snow. Provisions must be made to protect employees, visitors and the public from slips, trips and falls. Where appropriate de-icing grit should be spread to help clear ice and improve grip. In the case of snow fall, arrangements are to be made to clear walkways and roads, especially car parks and access points.

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