

Severe Weather Driving Tips

Sheriff Fontoura's Tips for Driving in Severe Weather On Ice or Snow

- Bridges and overpasses freeze first so always slow down and avoid sudden changes of speed or direction.
- Keep windows clear.
- Keep your speed steady and slow – but not so slow that your car gets stuck in deeper snow.
- Use your brakes cautiously. Abrupt braking can cause brake lock-up and cause you to lose steering control.
- To make antilock brakes work correctly, apply constant, firm pressure to the pedal. During an emergency stop, push the brake pedal all the way to the floor, if necessary, even in wet or icy conditions.
- If you get stuck in the snow, straighten the wheels and accelerate slowly. Avoid spinning the tires. Use sand or cinders under the drive wheels.

In High Winds

- It is best not to drive a trailer, van or other “high profile” vehicle in high winds.
- If driving in high winds, use extra caution near trailers, vans or vehicles carrying lightweight cargo.

When It Rains

- Slow down. Roads usually prove more slippery than they would seem.
- Turn on your headlights. Use the defroster or air conditioner to keep windows and mirrors clear.

When It’s Foggy

- Stay to the right of the roadway.

Turn on your headlights – day or night – to low beam.

- If you cannot see the road's edge, pull off on the right – well out of the traffic lane – and turn on the emergency flashers. Wait until visibility improves before you continue.

In A Hailstorm

- Find shelter by driving under an overpass or bridge.