

Safety Quiz



These programs offered by the Utah Safety Council offer practical strategies to reduce collision related injuries and fatalities on Utah roadways.

WINTER WEATHER DRIVING QUIZ

Driving in winter conditions requires skills that are not regularly used or practiced during the remaining three seasons. Most of us will never experience driving in extreme winter conditions, however in the event you are faced with winter conditions you will have an idea what to do. Take the following Winter Weather Driving Quiz to assess your skill level and knowledge of winter weather driving.

1. If your car is covered with snow, the minimum you should do before driving is
 - a. Brush off the windows, clear a good peep hole on the driver's side, and let the defrosters do the rest as you drive.
 - b. Brush off the windows and thoroughly clear a space 30 cm (one foot) square to enable you to see out the front and back windows.
 - c. Clear all snow off windows, roof and hood, front and rear lights, and scrape the ice off all windows.

2. Below -20 C the following condition does NOT occur:
 - a. Tire chains cease to be effective for traction.
 - b. Sand ceases to increase traction.
 - c. Snow tires lose their ability to bite into snow.

3. When you get stuck on ice or hard packed snow do NOT:
 - a. Spread sand under the tires.
 - b. Gently rock the car back and forth by shifting from forward gear to reverse using the brakes to hold the vehicle between shifts.
 - c. Apply pressure on the gas, keeping your wheels straight, and move out of the situation as quickly as possible.

4. If you don't have ABS and must stop quickly in icy or snowy conditions:
 - a. Apply strong, steady pressure to the brake pedal and don't let up.
 - b. Pump your brakes.
 - c. Slam your foot on the brake pedal at once.

5. If you go into a skid on ice:
 - a. Apply the brakes to slow yourself down.
 - b. Oversteer to compensate for the direction of the skid.
 - c. Take your foot off the accelerator and declutch or shift to neutral.
 - d. All of the above.

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ANSWERS

1. If your car is covered with snow, the minimum you should do before driving is:

c. Clean all snow and ice off all windows. Also remove loose snow from the hood and roof to prevent it from blowing up on the windshield or drifting over the back window as you drive. Don't be a peep hole driver, and ensure all windows are defrosted before starting out. The most important sense you have when driving is your vision. If your windows are covered with ice or snow your vision will be impaired and increases your risk for a collision. You will want to clear the snow and ice off the hood, roof and trunk of your vehicle so that it does not slide forward onto your windows as the vehicle warms or when you come to a stop which would again restrict your vision.

2. Below -20 C the following condition does NOT occur:

c. Snow tires do not lose their effectiveness at low temperatures. But remember they are designed to help you on unpacked snow and are little help on ice or hard packed snow. Tire chains and sand give you traction at temperatures closer to the freezing mark, but not at very low temperatures. Always approach ice or hard packed snow with care.

3. When you get stuck on ice or hard packed snow do NOT:

c. If you apply too much power you will just spin your wheels. Rather, use the "easy does it" approach when starting on icy surfaces. Clear away snow from around the tires and create traction. Rocking the car allows you to increase the distance traveled with each rock.

4. When you have to stop quickly in icy or snowy conditions:

a. But stop short of locking your wheels. The best defense is to leave a greater distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you, and to reduce your speed to decrease your stopping distance. Slamming your brakes could lock the wheels and produce an uncontrolled skid. With ABS braking use the "threshold braking" method. Threshold braking is done by keeping the heel of the foot on the floorboard, and using the toes to control the braking. Apply pressure to the brake using your toes just until you feel the brakes may lock, decrease the pressure slightly and reapply for a more controlled stop.

5. If you go into a skid:

c. Do not put on your brakes. Follow your natural impulse and steer to keep the car going in its original direction, but don't oversteer. When you feel the car regaining traction, start to straighten your wheels. Be prepared to handle a skid in the opposite direction. It may be necessary to disengage the engine or the force causing your vehicle to move forward by shifting to neutral.