

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

COLD WEATHER SAFETY

Winter Driving

Many areas of California are sunny and warm even in the winter, but temperatures can drop, and rain, snow, and fog are not uncommon. Inclement weather can cause road hazards. Use the following precautions to stay safe:



- ❖ Pay attention to the road. Hazardous driving conditions mean you need to be more cautious than usual. Avoid any activity that could distract you such as using your phone, interacting with passengers, or eating and drinking.
- ❖ Slow down! Leave with enough time to get to your destination without rushing and keep a greater distance from the car in front of you. Stopping distances are much longer in rain, snow, ice, and other slippery conditions. Reaction times can be slower in darkness and fog.
- ❖ Snow that thaws from the sun and then freezes when the temperature drops can create icy conditions. Pay attention to the weather in your surroundings.
- ❖ Keep your car well-maintained, including the brake system and windshield wipers. Keep your gas tank filled, tires well-inflated with good tread, and antifreeze levels topped off. If you are driving in an area that could have snow, be prepared with snow chains in case they are needed.

- ❖ Bring extra food, water, and warm blankets and extra clothing in case you become stranded.
- ❖ Check road conditions using the **Caltrans Highway Information Network Hotline** at **1-800-427-7623**.

Facility Preparation & Maintenance

It is also important to prepare and maintain school facilities for Winter weather to provide a safe environment for students and staff, and to protect school property.

- ❖ Inspect roofs and roof shingles and perform any needed roof repairs before cold/stormy weather prevents this work. Keep roofs clear of excess accumulation of snow and other debris. Ensure that gutters and drains (on roofs and on the ground) remain clear and unclogged to effectively drain water during rainstorms.
- ❖ Use surge protection devices to protect electronics, wiring, and appliances from power surges when electricity comes back on after a power outage.
- ❖ Avoid using portable heating devices, especially around combustible items. Keep central heating systems in good condition to reduce the need for portable devices. If used, portable heaters must be U.L. listed, must be turned off when leaving the room, unplugged at end of day and have auto shut-off if tipped over or left on accidentally.
- ❖ Use nonslip floor mats at doorways to the outside to prevent slips and falls from slippery walkways. Utilize caution signage near wet floors. Slip-resistant tape can be used on outdoor walkways.
- ❖ Turn off sprinklers when a weather freeze is expected to avoid ice on sidewalks.
- ❖ Ensure that food, water, and other emergency supplies are well stocked and not expired.
- ❖ Perform any needed maintenance or repairs on emergency generators to ensure they are in good working condition so they are ready to use when needed for emergencies.

Helping to keep our member's employees safe! This Safety Spotlight brought to you by: