

DRIVING IN THE RAIN



Driving in the rain can be dangerous. Accident rates rise when it rains due to decreased visibility and adverse road conditions. When driving in the rain, the safety of you and your passengers is your top priority.

SAFETY TIPS

- **As always, do a pre-trip inspection.** Make sure the tires have good tread, and the headlights, taillights, and turn signals are working.
- **Drive with caution.** It takes longer for a vehicle to stop on wet roads, and decreased visibility will impair reaction time.
- **Turn on the wipers,** and adjust them according to the intensity of the rain fall.
- **Turn on your defroster.** Rain will often cause the window to fog.
- **Turn on the headlights.** This will increase your visual range. In many states it is the law to have headlights on if the windshield wipers are being used. Using the headlights will also make it easier for other drivers to see you.
- **Maintain a safe following distance.** Allow extra room between you and the vehicle ahead in order to ensure you can react to unexpected hazards.
- **Do not follow large trucks or buses too closely.** These vehicles create spray from their large tires that will further inhibit your vision. If this happens, reduce speed by taking your foot off the accelerator. Do not slam on your brakes.
- **Try to follow the tracks of the car ahead of you.** This will decrease your chances of hydroplaning.

HEAVY RAIN

Heavy rain can overload the wiper blades allowing a continuous sheet of water to overflow your window. When it is raining hard enough that you cannot see the road in front of you, it's time to pull over and wait it out. Keep your headlights on, and turn on your emergency flashers to alert other drivers.

FLOODED ROADS OR DEEP PUDDLES

Most flood fatalities are caused by people attempting to drive through water. The depth of water on a roadway is not always clear, and can hide dangerous debris, potholes, or the road could be washed out. Rising water can also stall the vehicle's engine and sweep it away.

- Do not drive through deep puddles or roads if you cannot see the pavement through the water. Be especially cautious at low points in the road and on bridges.
- If you approach a flooded roadway or a barricade, turn around and find another route. If you do end up in a situation where you've entered a flooded road and your engine stalls, abandon your vehicle and climb to higher ground. If you cannot safely abandon the vehicle, immediately call 911.
- Be aware that if you drive through deep water, the water can flood your brakes and cause them to fail. If this happens, dry your brakes by driving slow and braking lightly until the brakes begin to function properly.



FOG

When entering a foggy area turn on your low beams. High beams should not be used as the intense light reflects off the moisture and causes lower visibility. Drive cautiously. Rain or high humidity can cause windows to fog inside the car. Turn on the defrosters with the AC switch engaged. If necessary, also crack your windows to allow more air-flow.

contact our risk management division at riskmanagement@siegelagency.com or 800.622.8272 for additional risk management services and resources