

Winter Weather Driving Safety

Snow and ice are commonly regarded as major factors involving motor vehicle accidents. But, the driver's preparation, response and adaptation to winter driving conditions are the most important factors as to whether or not an accident occurs due to snow and ice.

We need to be aware of what really causes accidents in this type of weather. It's not the weather; it's the driver who fails to modify his or her driving habits to the weather conditions that really causes the accident.

Remember the basics of winter weather driving:

- Observe established company policies regarding driving in winter conditions, including arriving early to work to warm up your bus and to clear your bus of snow and ice.
- Reduce your driving speed.
- Increase the following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you to between 6–8 seconds at speeds of 40 mph and less, and 8–10 seconds at speeds of over 40 mph. This is especially important in icy conditions.
- Most of all—take control of you. Driving a school bus in perfect weather conditions is difficult enough. With winter driving conditions—including snowstorms, icy conditions and sun glare—the job becomes even more difficult. Be sure to get a good night's rest, dress appropriately and wear the proper footwear for winter weather conditions.



Take every precaution to avoid accidents when loading children onto your bus:

- Reduce your driving speed when approaching the bus stop.
- Come to a complete stop “before” you reach the area where the children are standing, and then have the children walk to your bus.
- Make sure your bus stops are cleared of high mounds of snow; children hiding behind mounds of snow cannot be seen.

Be safe and have a healthy and happy winter season!