

RISK ASSESSMENT - WINTER DRIVING

ACTIVITY	SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS	RISK CONTROL MEASURES
Pre-driving vehicle checks	Failure to ensure vehicle is roadworthy may lead to vehicle collisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All exterior lights to be checked • Engine oil and water levels to be checked, including anti-freeze levels • Water levels in washer bottles to be checked • Tyres to be checked for condition and pressure • All windows and mirrors to be cleaned • Fuel level to be checked
Driving in any adverse weather conditions	Adverse weather can increase likelihood of vehicle collisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and national weather forecasts to be checked before setting off • If severe weather is forecast, journey should be delayed or cancelled • If possible and safe to do so, walk or use public transport rather than driving
Driving in heavy rain	Poor visibility and increased stopping distances may lead to vehicle collisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windscreen wipers to be kept in good condition • Vehicle speed to be reduced, with at least a four-second gap from the vehicle in front • Lights to be used if visibility is poor • Screen heater to be used to prevent misting
Driving in fog	Poor visibility may lead to vehicle collisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle speed to be reduced, keeping a longer gap from the vehicle in front • Fog lights (where fitted) to be used • Vehicle to be driven using dipped headlights • If visibility becomes very poor, driver to pull over in a safe place until it improves
Driving in ice or snow	Icy road conditions may lead to driver losing control of the vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle speed to be reduced, with at least a 10-second gap from the vehicle in front • Drivers to drive steadily and keep to salted/gritted roadways • Drivers to maintain a safe distance behind salting vehicles or snow ploughs • Drivers to take corners slowly and in the highest gear possible to avoid skidding • Drivers to use dipped headlights when driving in snow • Drivers to ensure windows and mirrors are kept free from ice/snow
Driving in high winds	High winds may lead to driver losing control of the vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle speed to be reduced, maintaining a steady course • Drivers to keep a safe distance from other vehicles • Drivers to avoid overtaking, especially high-sided vehicles and very small vehicles

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Breakdown preparation	Failure to prepare for breakdowns may put driver at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicle to carry a warning triangle to be used in the event of a breakdown• Vehicle to carry tools for changing a wheel• Driver to have a torch for use in the dark• For long journeys vehicles to be equipped with a spare fuel can• Driver to carry emergency telephone numbers in the event of a breakdown• Driver to always carry emergency kit including ice-scraper and de-icer, blanket, warm coat and boots, food and drink, first-aid kit, map, old carpet and snow shovel, and jump leads