

Olds Rural Crime Watch

Neighbours looking after each other



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Safety Tips for Driving on Snow and Ice

Now that winter driving conditions are here, make sure you follow the common rules that make driving safer, the Canada Safety Council urges.

“Snow and ice are two completely different driving surfaces, but both pose one common risk—skidding,” the Council says. Falling snow also poses visibility risks, while “invisible” ice or black ice can cause sudden skids and spin-outs.

“Even with the different problems posed by snow and ice, there are some common rules that make driving on either safer,” the Council states. Here are six tips:

1. Reduce Your Speed

- Use good sense and be prepared to drive at speeds slower than the posted limit when roads are covered in snow or ice or both
- Leave at least 10 seconds following distance in typical winter conditions—and more on ice
- Keep in mind that a vehicle driving on a dry road at 100 km per hour needs more than 180 metres to stop—more than three NHL rinks combined!

2. Do Not Turn Your Wheel Too Suddenly While Braking

- On slippery roads, it is important to turn your wheel slowly and smoothly
- Try not to make any sudden moves, including steering and braking, on slippery roads

3. Maximize the Distance Between Your Vehicle and Others

- Try to find safe ways to increase the space between your vehicle and others—for example, hang back from the vehicle in front of you and avoid driving alongside other vehicles when possible
- Even in stop-and-go traffic, try to keep your vehicle further back than you would in ordinary driving conditions

4. Take Extra Caution Driving Uphill

- Follow the “no-sudden-moves” rule
- Stopping on a hill can result in becoming stuck or sliding—so avoid if possible
- Hang back from vehicles ahead of you if possible to minimize the risk of them backing into your vehicle

5. Take Extra Caution Driving Downhill

- Begin with keeping your speed as slow as possible
- When necessary, switch into lower gears
- Try not to use the brakes, but if they must be used, shift into low gear
- Leave as much space as possible between your vehicle and the one in front, even if it means waiting until the bottom of the hill is clear

6. Brake Properly

- It can take 10 times longer to stop on slippery surfaces. Uniroyal offers this advice for proper braking:
- Keep in mind that it can take 10 times longer to stop on slippery surfaces
- Consult your vehicle's manual on proper braking procedures
- Be aware that tires with different tread patterns and wear should not be mixed

--Adapted from the Canada Safety Council, Uniroyal