



WINTER DRIVING

Toolbox Talks for the members of Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities

Winter 2015

When winter arrives, it catches all of us off guard and our winter driving skills are usually rusty. The following helpful driving tips are from Meemic Insurance. Meemic was founded by seven teachers to provide affordable auto insurance to their colleagues.

Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other drivers.

Watch the traffic well-ahead for extra reaction time. Always drive defensively and give yourself a cushion of time to deal with wintry conditions.

Stay well-back of maintenance vehicles and snowplows – at least 200 feet – and don't pass on the right. Use extreme caution when passing in a passing lane

Avoid abrupt lane changes. There might be a snow ridge between lanes. Also, the passing lane might be in worse shape than the driving lane.

Brake early and gently to avoid skidding. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake. Do not pump anti-lock brakes.

Don't use cruise control or overdrive in wintry conditions. Even a slight depression of your brakes to deactivate can cause loss of control on hidden slippery patches. Don't assume that your vehicle can handle all weather conditions.



Don't be a peephole driver!

- Remember, posted speed limits are for dry pavement. Decrease speed on icy, snow-covered roads and allow extra distance between you and other vehicles.
- Start out clean! Completely clear snow and ice from all windows and lights as well as the hood and roof for maximum visibility and to avoid having ice and snow fly off your vehicle.