



CRUM & FORSTER®

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ADVERSE WEATHER



Top 4 Tips for Inclement Weather

- Follow weather forecasts and expect the unexpected
- Be prepared for various scenarios
- Manage your speed and the space between you and others
- Empower your drivers to put safety first

Adverse Weather— Do You Have a Plan?

You can't change the weather but you can change how you react to it. Avoiding traveling in adverse weather is the generally the safest and best option. Unfortunately for most carriers that is not always a possibility. The next best option is to have an adverse weather plan. Having a plan means drivers, dispatchers and customers are able to adjust expectations and helps reduce stress and anxiety. It also decreases the likelihood of a weather-related crash.

When you think of adverse weather you may think of snow and ice, but it can also include high wind, fog/smoke, sleet and rain. Adverse weather is simply anything other than optimal weather.



Ideas to consider when putting your plan into place:

Being weather aware:

It's important that both drivers and dispatchers stay current on weather and road conditions that the driver may encounter.

There are several methods of receiving current weather related information such as downloadable apps, telematics systems that provide real time weather information and the 511 phone service. Dispatchers can also monitor weather and provide the information and potential alternative routes to drivers in route.

Empowering or pushing

Drivers who are pushed to make tight scheduling may make poor decisions that can cause a load to be later than the few hours it would take to wait out a storm. Empower drivers to be able to make the decision to stop in a safe and secure location and wait for conditions to improve.

Be Prepared

When possible, know what to expect during your trip and allow extra time for delays. Being prepared also includes:

- Ensuring the vehicle is in proper working condition
- Making sure the brakes are properly adjusted
- Tires are properly inflated and in good condition
- Fluids are topped off

- Wiper blades are in good condition
- Emergency supplies are stocked including extra wiper blades and windshield washer fluid
- Ensure the weight of the load is evenly distributed

Check that the head lights, tail lights and turn signals are in good working order and be sure to clean them at each stop.

Know the chain law requirements for states that will be traveled through, ensure the vehicle is equipped with the proper size and number of chains needed. A quick refresher on properly chaining up may be beneficial to drivers.

Speed and Space Management

When weather becomes hazardous your best defense is to reduce your speed, and allow more space between vehicles. This increases your ability to react to unforeseen situations and respond more effectively. In good driving conditions, larger vehicles need approximately a 6-8 second following distance. However, in adverse weather this can easily be doubled.

Slower speeds are vital especially when approaching curves or entering intersections. Use extra caution in high hazard areas such as bridges, overpasses, intersections, exit ramps and areas where black ice may be present.

Always drive with caution and watch for motorists who lack the skill or experience to drive in adverse conditions. If adverse weather occurs without warning, it is best to safely get off the road and wait for conditions to improve.



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