

TOPIC: Driving on Icy Roads

ACKNOWLEDGE: Thank you for being here and participating in this safety talk. I know your time is valuable, so I will ensure every moment of this talk is worth your while (*make eye contact with the entire group*).

Training Tips:

Ask a lot of questions: While delivering your Safety Talk, ask questions that ‘hook the mind’ and engage your participants. The simple act of asking questions is a High Impact Training technique!

Raise a hand when asking questions: Directed to your audience, you’ll often find that people are more willing to answer your questions and become active participants... try it out! Also, pause for a moment after asking a question; waiting for and encouraging responses from the group.

Provide an example of a personal experience: (or a recent news event) For instance: “A close friend of mine once _____”, or “Just last week _____”. This is a very effective method to help participants relate to your topic. It often helps them to realize: ‘*Yeah, this could affect me. I should listen to this.*’

If possible, dig up a recent news article about a local serious auto crash to help drive your message home!

ASK: How many of you have experienced the feeling of losing control of your vehicle due to Icy Road conditions?
(*Pause and wait for hands to be shown*)

It’s a horrible feeling isn’t it? Once you are in a slide, your skills will put be to the test. Has anyone ever been in a collision and been injured due to icy roads?

For those of you who didn’t raise your hand, I am certain you know of someone who has!

WIIFM (What’s in It for Me?): Every year people are killed or injured to the extent that their quality of life will never be the same. Today we’re doing a brief safety talk about driving on icy road conditions, something that all drivers living in Manitoba have to face for approximately one third of our calendar year. Knowing what weather conditions cause slippery roads and how to handle your vehicle, could possibly save your life and the lives of others who share the road with you.



ASK: Have you noticed how as soon as the first snow fall hits the ground, drivers panic. Traffic slows to a halt and folks start slamming on their brakes! So even though you may know how to handle your vehicle in the freezing rain and snow, you have to be aware of the others around you who may be overcompensating. How many of you understand what I am talking about?

Let’s discuss dangerous road ways and areas that tend to be more slippery than others... Can anyone give me examples? (*Wait / encourage responses*)

Ice Danger Zones

- **Bridges overpasses and elevated roadways** - The transition from a dry highway to an icy bridge can add a major element of surprise where drivers are not expecting the bridge to be any different than the road they had just come from. Bridges are unique because all sides are exposed to cold air; sides, top and bottom. As a result, ice and snow will build up on a bridge much faster than the road it is attached to. This is why you will often see warning signs on bridges.
- **Hills** - A more obvious danger zone during icing roads is are hills. If the road is slick, friction and grip between your tires and the road is not strong enough to overcome gravity to slow or stop a car on an icy hill.
- **Intersections** – Ice and snow build up on intersections where vehicles are stopping and starting, causing ruts to form and slippery conditions.
- **Curves** - Steering can easily cause the rear of a vehicle to slide outward on a curve. Contrary to intuition, cars initially tend to fishtail and slide toward the *inside* of a curve rather than sliding to the outside.
- **Rural Roads** - Often, lesser-traveled roads allow snow and ice to pack down more easily than in high-traffic areas. These roads are not high priority for snow plows and can take days to be cleared in a snowstorm.
- **Cobblestone and brick pavement** - Brick and stone-paved streets are prone to icing up just as fast as bridges and overpasses do, due to the gaps in the road surface that allow cold air to penetrate downward.



ASK: All these danger zones can make for treacherous road situations, however what if some of these conditions were combined? For example, you are turning off the Perimeter Highway onto Wilkes and you have a stop sign at the bottom of the ramp during winter precipitation. Count all the possible hazards (*Answer: Overpass, Curve, Hill, Intersection*)

WARNING SIGNS

- **Low Temperatures (32°F or 0°C)** You don't need to be glued to your farmer's almanac but keep yourself aware of current and upcoming weather conditions. Plan for your trip; check the weather the night before and the day that you plan on driving. Check the thermometer in your car and listen to the radio for temperature and road condition updates.
- **Look for ice or snow freezing to your car** - Ice buildup on your windshield wipers, antenna or other parts of your car can be an indication that ice could already be forming on roads and bridges.
- **Ice or snow sticking to objects** - Ice and snow will usually (but not always) stick to elevated objects before it begins affecting bridges and roadways. Look for snow or ice on parked cars, highway signs and guardrails.



ASK: What are some of the things you can do to prevent an incident while driving on icy roads? (Wait for or add the following responses)

- Reduce your speed
- Increase your following distance
- Maintain constant awareness of other drivers around you and what they are doing
- Avoid sharp turns, hard braking and rapid acceleration
- DO NOT USE cruise control

WHAT TO DO IF YOU START TO SLIDE

- **Take your foot off the accelerator** – put transmission into neutral to prevent engine from downshifting.
- **Do not brake**
- **Steer into the slide** - steer your wheels in the direction that the rear end of your car is sliding. It helps to look where you want the car to go, off into the horizon and turn the steering wheel in that direction being careful not to over steer. You might have to steer left and right a few times until you get your vehicle completely under control.

Facilitator, remember to:

1. Ask for the commitment of your employees,
2. Answer all questions,
3. Thank them for their time and
4. Document that this safety talk occurred.

RECORD OF SAFETY TALK

Driving on Icy Roads

Company Name:	Work Location Dept.:
Talk Given by:	Date / Time:

Results of inspection, demonstration or other activity or suggestions during talk:

List of All Employees Who Attended the Safety Talk:	
Name (PRINT)	<i>Signature</i>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	

Signed: _____ Position Held: _____