

WINTER DRIVING

Tips, Rules and Reminders

It's that time again. The weather has turned cold and the leaves have all fallen. There is only one thing missing...snow. Everybody loves snow for the holidays right?

For bus operators, the thought of snow is a little different. For some operators, it's another day at the office. For others, it can be the beginning of a very long and stressful day.

The following "Tips, Rules and Reminders" have been around for years, compiled from operators and managers who have "been there and done that." Incorporating them into your daily driving habits will give you the best chance of success this winter.

Tips

- During hazardous driving conditions, safe bus operation and the care of our customers must remain the first priority. Operators must always use reasonable care when operating during adverse conditions.
- Keep abreast of the latest weather conditions.
- Show up to work prepared for the kind of weather you will be driving in.
- Decide the safest location to pick up and drop off.
- Reduce speed. The schedule is not as important as the safe operation of the bus.
- Increase following distance – This will give you more time to perceive and take action.
- Turn off the transmission retarder during slippery conditions.
- Preferably keep the auxiliary brake on when driving hybrids.
- Don't block the defrosters with the DVIR book, paddle or any personal items.

Rules

- Operators are required to pay attention to the condition of the stairs and door areas, with a goal of keeping these locations reasonably free of accumulated snow, ice, and water. Operators must also address customers' concerns about these areas. An operator who fails to act when observing an unsafe situation, or upon being notified of one, will be in violation of CDTA procedures
- Drop kneeler **before** opening the doors.
- Ensure customers are behind the “standee line” - **before you move.**
- Wait for the customers to be safely situated before moving the bus.

Reminders

- Turning the wheels and braking at the same time may cause you to slide. Slow down and brake before you turn your wheels.
- ABS brakes – Use firm and steady pressure on your brake pedal. Do not pump the brakes. Let the system work for you.
- Remember to keep your windshield clear of fog, snow, and ice.
- Accelerate slowly and brake gradually.
- Remember, bridges ice up before roadways .