

Safety Alert

From the LEG HSE Department

As the temperature begins to drop... Remember: Winter Driving Safety Practices

Defensive driving involves being alert and prepared. It is crucial for drivers to remain alert to what is happening inside as well as outside the vehicle. Whether it is snow, sleet, ice, or cold rain, weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. **In 2020, there were 374 fatal crashes, and an estimated 25,000 injury crashes that occurred in wintry weather.** We should also be prepared to react to any condition should it present itself while we are driving. The way that you drive says everything about you and LEG. Make a positive statement by following these safe winter driving practices.

Awareness & Road Condition Respect is key to good defensive driving!



Inspect Your Tires

It is very well known that South Texas has wet winter weather.

- Make sure your tires are inflated to the manufacture's specification. Cold weather will drop/change the air pressure through condensation.
- Daily check your tires for tread depth. For LEG, the depth minimum for pick-ups is 2/32 at the front and rear. For tractor/trailers, the tire tread depth can be no less than: 4/32 at the front steering axle. The rear tires' tread minimum is 2/32.
- Evaluate wheels, lug nuts, and tires. Your inspection should include looking for punctures, cuts, impacts, cracks, bulges, and irregular wear.

Respect The Road's Surface Changes

Always expect the unexpected, when driving. The road surface always changes especially when the season shifts. Always look ahead and adjust your driving speed to remain in control. Some examples include:

- Adjusting your speed by slowing down on the highway, *before* you drive past a busy lease entrance. On a wet day, that cross section will have mud and puddles (slush in colder temperatures) that work traffic picked up from the lease location. Driving through that, will compromise traction.
- Lease roads are rarely made with the best surface materials. These unsafe slippery roads include hill-sides or down planes that curve. Keep a sharp eye on the oncoming vehicle and calculate the best level area to stop; this will allow both vehicles to pass each other safely.

Other LEG Driving Safety Practices..

- Be well-rested before driving.
- Avoid taking medications that makes you drowsy.
- Keep alert for pedestrians, motorcyclists, & animals darting out in front of you.
- Keep your mind on your driving and your hands on the wheel.
- Scan the road ahead for problems
- Check mirrors frequently

