



## IT'S SNOWING...WHAT DO I DO?

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### DRIVER SAFETY

#### INFLATED TYRES

#### VEHICLE SAFETY

#### HEADLIGHTS ON

#### READ CONDITIONS

#### DRIVE SMOOTH

#### FOLLOWING DISTANCE

#### SLOW DOWN!!!

#### ABS, ESP, DSC, VDC, SRS, EBD...

- What do they all mean?
- **ABS (Anti-lock Braking System)**
- **ESP (Electronic Stability Program)**
- **DSC, VDC or the slippery when wet symbol, means exactly the same as (ESP). Each vehicle manufacturer uses a certain abbreviation of it.**
- **SRS (Supplementary Restraint System) Airbags.**

## TEMPERATURE DROP- ICE ICE BABY!

**OK winter has hit and for some of us we may never have driven in the snow or ice before, and well... it can be a little bit worrying.**

So here is a list to help:

- 1:** No doubt you will know it's already cold outside and road conditions will not be ideal.
- 2:** Check your tyres, they should have legal tread and be correctly inflated.
- 3:** Be familiar with your vehicle. Does it have any form of traction control? Does it have ABS? Don't know how to tell? It's easy...turn on the ignition, if your vehicle has ABS, a light will illuminate for a second or two, same applies for Electronic Stability Control (ESC) etc.



**4:** Turn your headlights on to low beam, park lights are useless, if it's foggy now is the time to turn them on too.

**5:** Drive to the conditions, if you are in an area which is cold and particularly if it's morning, you **MUST** drive slower. Black ice can be a disaster if you are travelling too fast, and too fast might be 20km below the legal speed limit.

**6:** Don't get bullied into driving faster by another driver, drive at a speed you are comfortable with should something go wrong and on a slippery road where the temperature is low and the sun can not penetrate the road, your speed needs to be slow.

**7:** In ice and snow conditions no matter your vehicle, you must brake and accelerate gradually & smoothly; any sudden application will cause a tyre to lock up or spin.

If you have a vehicle fitted with ABS or some kind of stability program, this is when it will kick in. These safety features **ONLY** kick in when the tyres lock or spin, which means **YOU** have done something wrong. These safety features will give you some steering and traction and do their best to keep the

vehicle from spinning out of control.

**8:** Keep a safe distance away from the vehicle in front, and in conditions that are slippery this gap needs to be about 4 or 5 seconds. If you notice in the rear view mirror someone travelling too close to you, increase the gap in front even more.

**9:** There is nothing exceptionally special you can do in ultra slippery conditions, except **SLOW DOWN**, concentrate and read the conditions early.

**10:** Got it all wrong and you know you are going to crash...

**BRAKE!** We all hear "don't brake on ice or snow" well I'm afraid if you know it's all going bad, and you are heading off the road. I don't know about you, but I would want to crash at the lowest speed possible and the **ONLY** way to do that is by **BRAKING!**

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