

The Thinking Driver

Thinking Driver's Top 10 Rules for Winter Driving

Winter driving presents a number of challenges to both you and your car. Cold weather tests the limits of your vehicle's mechanical abilities. Treacherous driving conditions test your abilities as a driver. It is imperative the you and your vehicle be ready for the upcoming challenges of winter conditions.

- 1. ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to do all in your power to drive without incident. Do not blame the weather for a crash. Be prepared to meet any situation.
- 2. ADJUST YOUR SPEED TO CONDITIONS.** Slow down on wet, snow-covered, or icy roads so you can stop in time if you have to. Watch for ice patches, especially in shaded area, on bridges, and on overpasses. On compact snow, reduce your speed by $\frac{1}{3}$. On icy roads, reduce your speed by $\frac{1}{2}$.
- 3. GET THE "FEEL" OF THE ROAD.** If you are away from traffic, try the brakes occasionally while driving slowly. Find out just how slippery the road is and adjust your speed to road and weather conditions. Never make sudden moves like slamming on brakes or accelerator.
- 4. KEEP THE WINDSHIELD CLEAR OF SNOW, ICE, AND FOG.** Be sure headlights, windshield wiper blades and defrosters are in top working condition. You have to see danger to avoid it.
- 5. USE SNOW TIRES, TIRE CHAINS, OR STUDED TIRES ON SNOW AND ICE.** They cut stopping distances and give more starting and climbing traction ability. However, even with the help of chains or studs, slower-than-normal-speeds are a "must" on snow and ice.
- 6. GENTLY APPLY YOUR BRAKES TO SLOW DOWN OR STOP.** Slamming on the brakes can lock the wheels and throw you into a dangerous skid.
- 7. UNDERSTAND AND USE ABS CORRECTLY.** ABS will increase your stopping distance on icy road conditions. Gently applying the brakes to the point just before ABS is activated will reduce your stopping distance. If you feel ABS come on, press down hard on the pedal, look and steer where you want to go and don't let the pedal up until you are out of danger.
- 8. FOLLOW AT A SAFE DISTANCE.** Keep well back of the vehicle ahead of you in order to give yourself room to stop. Remember, without tire chains, it takes 3 to 12 times the distance to stop on snow and ice as on dry concrete.
- 9. CRUISE CONTROL.** Do not use cruise control when the roads might be slick. Cruise control can apply power suddenly or at the wrong time and cause a skid or make a small skid uncontrollable. If you have the cruise control on and realize the road might be slick, use the hand operated controls to turn it off. Tapping the brakes can initiate a skid if the roads are slick.
- 10. REMEMBER,** condensation on the pavement of bridges and overpasses freezes before the rest of the roadway.



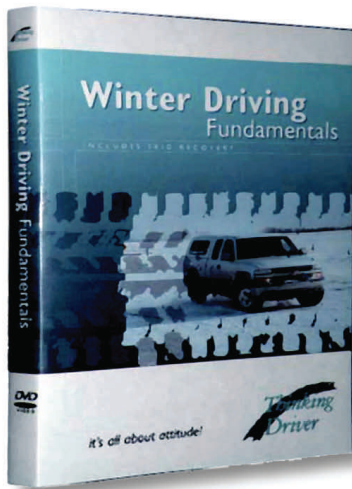
BC Safety Council Closes Doors

We were saddened to learn that the BC Safety Council recently closed its doors and went into receivership.

The Safety Council was formed in 1945, and provided a valuable service to British Columbians for over 60 years in the areas of occupational health and safety and driver safety. Spencer McDonald, Thinking Driver President who managed the Traffic Safety Division of the Council until 1991, says "The BC Safety council gave me my start in the safety field in the early 1980's. I learned the fundamentals of driver safety training there. It is truly unfortunate that they were unable to survive the challenging economic times that we all face."

The loss of the BCSC leaves a gap in driver safety and training area and many organizations who used the Council's excellent programs will be seeking alternate suppliers. Thinking Driver invites BCSC clients wishing to transition to an alternate supplier to call for a review of their needs and a discussion on how we may assist them to continue their driver programs with as little disruption as possible.

Winter Driving Fundamentals...

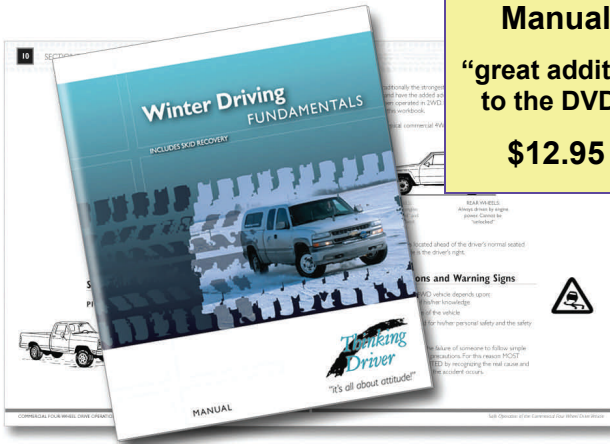


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- How to prepare yourself and your vehicle for winter driving
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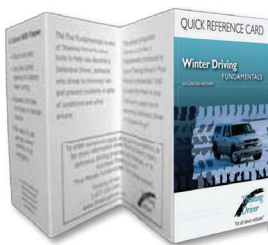
MEET THE TEAM...



**Annette DeCaire,
 Training Coordinator**

Annette has over 25 years in administration. Annette manages program logistics, organizations and implementation.

Raised in a family of entrepreneurs, Annette started out in the "real world" doing administration for her mother's business. It was there that she established her strong work ethic (there were no benefits being the boss' daughter!) and top notch skills. After she left her mother's employ Annette worked for a variety of businesses moving up to executive assistant and staying in that role for several years. Looking for something more challenging that would allow her to grow and expand Annette saw an ad for Thinking Driver and the rest, as they say, is history. She has been working with the Thinking Driver team for the past 4 years as our Training Coordinator. "This is by far the most fulfilling job I've had. The people I work with are amazing and the opportunities are endless!"



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