



## Adjusting Driving Habits to Seasonal Weather Changes

Falling temperatures and leaves turning color are a reminder that summer is fading into autumn. Beautiful, yes; but it also alerts us to changes in weather conditions that can challenge even the most skilled and experienced driver. Autumn is somewhat unique among the seasons because the changing weather conditions are very subtle and occur without warning.

For example, during the fall season lower temperatures increase the water content in the air, resulting in more moisture and dampness on roadways. Increased moisture in the air leaves the road surface slippery especially in the early morning hours. It's extremely dangerous on exit ramps, bridges, and intersections because there is not enough water to wash away oil deposits.

In addition, frequent rain, fewer daylight hours, and occasional ice patches on the roadway creates a hazard for any driver. Here are some helpful safe driving countermeasures.

- ✓ Adjust your speed and driving habits to the weather and road conditions.
- ✓ Increase your following distance and maintain a safe space cushion.
- ✓ Learn to recognize driving situations that can be hazardous.
- ✓ Assume other drivers make errors.
- ✓ Avoid being over confident, seasoned drivers have accidents too.

Remember, increasing your safe driving knowledge will help you to remain accident free!

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