

# MONTHLY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY



## WINTER DRIVING

### STEERING THE CONVERSATION TOWARDS SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

The winter season and its conditions account for approximately **30%** of accidents every year. Here are several safety tips to assist you in safely operating your vehicle in winter conditions:

- It can take up to **10 times longer** to stop on snowy and icy roads. **Winter tires** can decrease your stoppage time by approximately **30%** and increase your vehicle's overall traction.
- Did you know that snow and ice **are more slippery near 0 degrees Celsius** than in sub-zero temperatures? Be mindful of road surfaces when temperatures teeter between thawing and freezing.
- It may take your vehicle up to **600 feet** to stop safely on snow-covered highways!
- Please **slow down and stop sooner** on any roadways and near intersections, while **leaving more distance** between you and other vehicles.
- **Do not depend on cruise control** mechanisms during winter driving. It cannot account for the variability in road conditions and may make your travels more dangerous.
- **4x4** will not assist you in stopping safely. While it can improve overall traction, it will not help you brake effectively.
- **Clear all snow and ice** from your vehicle to avoid sudden windshield obstructions or loose projectiles into traffic.
- **Plan your trip** before heading to your destination. You may need to leave earlier or take an alternative route.
- If conditions change for the worse during travel, **pull over to a safe area, stop, and reassess**. There is **no reason to rush safety!**
- **Avoid passing** vehicles if conditions do not permit doing so safely, and **do not pass snowplows**. Use the **most traveled lanes** and brake **as little as possible** while **steering gently**.
- **Black ice** is most likely to form in areas with inconsistent sunlight, on bridges and overpasses, and near areas with water vapours.
- **Do not use high-beam lights** in snowstorms, as they aim straight ahead and may reflect off falling snow. If safe to do so, try your **fog lights**, which aim down towards the road.

### WORKER'S RIGHTS

#### KNOW

You have the right to know about health and safety matters in the workplace.

#### PARTICIPATE

You have the right to participate in conversations and decisions that could affect your health and safety in the workplace.

#### REFUSE

You have the right to refuse work that could affect your health and safety in the workplace.

