



## Safety First

**Driving Safely in the Rain** – Driving can be dangerous anytime, but add rain and the picture can get even uglier. Wet roads mean poor traction. The first 10 minutes of a heavy downpour are the most dangerous, as oil and debris wash over streets. The number of motor vehicle accidents skyrocket during storms--twice the number as compared to driving during dry conditions. According to the California Highway Patrol, the biggest safe driving tip is to slow down during adverse conditions. Here are some additional tips:

### Be Prepared

- Check wiper blades; fill washer reservoir.
- Make sure headlights, taillights, brake lights and directional signals are clean and working.
- Keep windshield and inside windows clean.
- Recharge or replace weak battery--wet weather puts heavy demand on charging system.
- Keep an emergency kit with flashlight, blanket, jumper cables, and flares or reflective triangles.

### General Tips

- Slow down.
- Increase distance behind other vehicles.
- Avoid distractions, such as using a cell phone, while driving.
- Keep headlights on during rain.
- To prevent windows from fogging, use the 'outside air mode' on your defroster, or open window slightly and turn defroster on high; you can also use the air conditioner to reduce humidity.
- Think 20-30 seconds ahead.
- Allow extra time for braking--at 65 mph on wet roads, a car needs 730 ft. to stop, versus 250 ft. on dry pavement.
- Use center lanes because water collects at curbs.
- If it is raining so hard you cannot see the edge of the road or other vehicles, pull over. Rest areas, roadside malls and restaurants are the best places to stop until road conditions are safe.