

## **SAFE WINTER DRIVING**

No matter how many winters one has lived through, driving on slick winter roads never feels comfortable. Of all the things you can do to make winter driving less stressful, giving yourself a little more time is the most important. More time to get to and from work and more time to stop when you are on the road. Going slower is the key to safe driving on slippery roads and it's pretty hard to go slower when you are in a race with the clock.

The biggest hazard of winter driving is slippery roads caused by ice, slushy snow or rain, especially the first rain after a dry spell when oil and grease have built up on the roads. Remember how far it takes to bring your car to a stop on dry pavement? In winter conditions, allow at least three times that distance to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. Reduce the danger of skidding by driving more slowly. Use low gears on slick surfaces, especially hills and curves.

## **BE GENTLE AND DELIBERATE AT THE CONTROLS**

Drive with a feather touch and pretend you are in a china shop. You will have few problems if you handle the vehicle with **slow, gentle and deliberate** motions. If you push the vehicle hard with jerky technique, you are inviting skids, spinning tires, collisions and the ditch.

Accelerate smoothly and slowly without spinning the tires. Slow down or stop by very lightly tapping and pushing the brake pedal with your toe to prevent locking the brakes. Never slam on the brakes or let off the accelerator quickly for this may send you into a skid. One trick is to pretend that you have a fresh egg between your foot and the brake pedal. Break the egg and you are in trouble.