



# SEVERE WEATHER



## Manager's Fact Sheet

### Why is this important?

- Road Safety is paramount in any fleet operation and the weather conditions can have a major impact on the day to day driving of all road users.
- 9 out of 10 weather-related deaths and serious injuries on the roads take place in the rain.
- Severe weather conditions can affect both steering and braking.
- Stopping distances will increase in severe weather.
- Poor vehicle roadworthiness and a failure in poor maintenance can put a driver at risk in severe weather.

### What are the legal requirements?

- Drivers must use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced, generally when they cannot see for more than 100 metres (328 feet).
- Drivers may use front or rear fog lights but switch them off when visibility improves.
- According to the Highway Code, headlights can be used when visibility is seriously reduced, generally when the driver cannot see for more than 100 metres.
- The Highway Code stipulates a driver must be able to see out of every glass panel in their vehicle and must clear the windscreen of snow, frost, or condensation.
- The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use Regulations) 1986 require all glass or other transparent material fitted to a motor vehicle to be maintained in such condition that it does not obscure the vision of the driver while the vehicle is being driven on a road.



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### What is best practice?

- Providing drivers with training on how to drive safely in severe weather conditions.
- Informing drivers of any known severe weather warnings.
- Providing drivers with adequate screen wash to prevent washers freezing.
- Providing drivers with screen cleaning material to assist with full visibility.
- Clear guidelines on driving through floods, along with the risks of driving through fast moving water.
- Policies around the use of winter tyres and all-season tyres.
- Stick to driving on the main roads where possible.
- Clear guidance as to when it is not safe to continue with any journey, where a driver should park, and any safety measures they should take.
- Equipping vehicles with items including snow shovel, or snow chains.
- Regular contact with drivers based in remote locations in severe weather.
- Severe weather can arise suddenly. Drivers should be check the weather conditions ahead of a long drive.

### Where can I find further information?

[RoSPA winter driving tips](#)

[Highway Code - Driving in severe weather](#)

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/travel/driving-in-severe-weather](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/travel/driving-in-severe-weather)

[Driving through floods - AA](#)