



SAFETY MESSAGE

Your Personal Safety is our #1 priority

[Driving Safely](#), Compiled by [USDA-APHIS-CCEP](#)

**Be alert to your surroundings.
The life you may be saving, maybe your own.**

Alert Driving

- **CONCENTRATION:** Operating a vehicle safely demands that the driver concentrate on driving. The person should be rested, calm and not under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- One of the greatest hazards of roadway driving is **drowsiness** or "highway hypnosis". Lack of sleep or fatigue impact your ability to safely drive your vehicle. When taking a long trip, avoid drowsiness by stopping frequently to drink coffee, exercise or nap. Exercise your eyes by reading road signs or shifting the focus of your eyes to different parts of the roadway. Make sure you are properly rested.
- **DEFENSIVE DRIVING:** Plan ahead for the unexpected. Always be prepared to react to the other driver. Do not expect the other driver to do what you think he or she should do. Do not think you know what he or she is going to do. If you cannot avoid a crash, remain calm and try to choose the least dangerous situation. For example, running into a ditch is less dangerous than a head-on collision. Also, your chances of survival are greater if your vehicle is in good mechanical condition.
- **CELL PHONE:** Usage is not allowed while driving a GOV.

How to avoid hydroplaning

As rainfall increases, tires must cut through the water to maintain contact with the road. If there's too much water on the road and you are traveling too fast, your vehicle may start to ride on top of the water a condition called hydroplaning or aquaplaning. Until it has washed away, the fresh rain combines with fuel spills, soot, dust and tire debris, resulting in road conditions as slippery as glass.

Safety Tips:

- Don't drive with bald or badly worn tires and ensure your tires are properly inflated.
- Slow down when rainfall is heavy or storm water is standing on the road. Tires have less grip than on dry roads and stopping distances will be at least doubled.
- Increase your distance from vehicles in front.
- Ease off accelerator and slow down gradually to avoid skidding.
- Make sure your vision is clear.

Driving on country roads

Country roads are often more difficult and dangerous to drive on due to blind corners, high hedges, slippery surfaces, farm vehicles, livestock, pedestrians in the road. Country lanes are narrow and usually not wide enough for more than one car. Look for passing places to pull into if a vehicle is coming towards you.

Safety Tips:

- Drive slowly and keep within the speed limit. Driving on a dry road at 20 mph will still take you three car lengths to stop.
- On a wet, muddy road you will need to double your stopping distance.
- Don't drive too close to farm vehicles and give plenty of room if passing.

**Click It
(Seatbelt)**



OR

**Ticket
(A Really Bad Day)**



<http://www.crashprevention.org>
<http://www.aota.org>
<http://www.trafficsafety.org/dsw.asp>