

START SMART...

The keys to safe teen driving



13 Going the Distance: ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Why is driving in adverse weather so dangerous?

- Rain, snow, and ice increase the time needed to start, stop, or turn.
- Even small amounts of precipitation make roads slippery. “Black ice”—patches of road that look wet but are actually icy—can be especially dangerous.
- On wet roads, maneuvers taken at normal “dry pavement” speeds can cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle.
- Rain, fog, and sun glare make it more difficult to see, detect hazards, and be seen by other drivers.
- In all adverse weather conditions, safe following and stopping distances should be increased dramatically.
- Due to lack of experiences, teens tend to fail to adjust their speed to driving conditions.

Parents’ comments on adverse weather conditions...

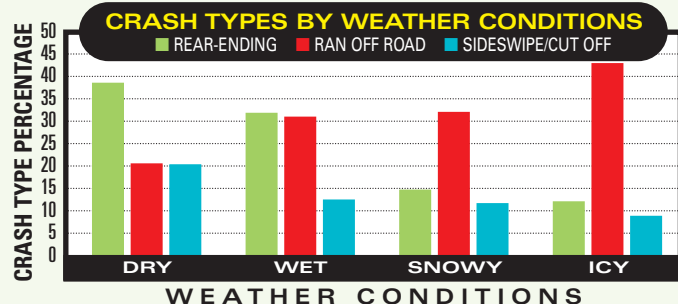
“She has been taught to handle normal driving situations, but I still have concerns about her driving at night or in bad weather, because she has little experience in those situations.”—Carlos G.

“I make it a point to go out with Jerry driving, just the two of us, to practice. We do it a couple of times a week, and he gets experience with whatever he needs to work on—bad weather, traffic, highways, night conditions, and so on. We try to do it just like AAA StartSmart Newsletter 1 said. I’m seeing real improvement—and besides, it gives us some ‘quality time’ together, and we get a bunch of errands done.”—Rose M.

Before driving unsupervised in adverse weather, teens should have several months of experience of driving in fair weather conditions and extensive supervised practice in adverse conditions.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Teens drive less than adults do in bad weather, but teens have more crashes per mile driven in bad weather.
- ✓ Drivers under 21 years of age are more likely than other age groups to be involved in the “ran off road” crash type. This crash type is more frequent during wet, snowy, or icy conditions.



AAA StartSmart recommends...

Parents and teens should talk about what it means to be a responsible driver and set rules and consequences related to irresponsible driving *before* teens get a license. Make a Zero Tolerance Policy—drive irresponsibly and lose driving privileges. This rule should apply to all situations.



SET RULES RELATED TO BEING A RESPONSIBLE DRIVER!

As a Family, You Can Help Reduce Teen Driving Risk by Doing the Following:

1 Talk about what a responsible driver is and the dangers related to being an irresponsible driver (*see front page*).

2 Decide the following:

● *There will be a Zero Tolerance Policy for irresponsible driving. Any violation will result in the loss of driving privileges.*

3 Set the following teen rules:

- *Check in with a parent every time you drive. Tell parent where you are going, who will be the passengers, and when you will return. Call home if you will be more than ___ minutes late. Call home if your plans change while out. Call home if you cannot get home safely. Parent will arrange a safe ride home.*
- *Obey all traffic laws and signs. Never use alcohol or other drugs and drive. Never ride with a person who is driving after using alcohol or other drugs. Never ride in a car where ANY alcohol or drug use is occurring. Always properly wear your seat belt as a driver or passenger. Always have every passenger properly wear a seat belt. Do not drive aggressively (e.g., speeding, tailgating, or cutting others off).*
- *Do not take unnecessary risks while driving. No playing around with passengers, adjusting the radio, talking on a cell phone, etc. Do not drive when overly tired, angry, or upset. Do not put yourself or others at increased risk by making unnecessary trips in adverse weather.*
- *Other:* _____

4 Set possible consequences for breaking driving rules, for example:

- *Teen lied about where s/he was going in the car.*
 - Lose driving privileges for _____ weeks/months.
 - Other: _____
- *Teen got a ticket for a moving violation.*
 - Lose driving privileges for _____ weeks/months.
 - Other: _____