



## TOOLBOX TALK 41/60

DATE:

TOPIC: VEHICLE SKID CONTROL

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE DRIVER SKID CONTROL SAFETY

### Some things to know before you give your talk:

1. It doesn't matter what you drive, if you lose control on a slippery road and start to skid, it's scary.
2. Even with better roads, better tires, and anti-lock brakes, a lot of drivers get into accidents because of a skid in bad weather.
3. Your crew can lose control of their equipment in any weather or road condition, but bad weather can increase their chances of skidding as much as 10 times.
4. The only way they can reduce the chance of skidding is to adjust their driving for bad weather conditions. This means slowing down and giving themselves more time and distance.
5. Reduce speed. Drive slower in rain, and go well below the posted speed limit in snow or ice.
6. Allow more time to slow down when approaching other vehicles, intersections, curves, railroad crossings, and the entrance to the job site.
7. Give more distance to the vehicles ahead. In wet weather, double your normal following distance.
8. Make sure to select the proper gear before going up or downhill.
9. Think ahead of the vehicle. Remember that ice forms on bridges before roadways.
10. Expect ice beneath underpasses, in the shade, or at higher altitudes. When the temperature is below freezing, roads that were wet during the day can become icy after the sun goes down.
11. Tell your crew that when they do have to stop, do it slowly. Never jam on the brakes. This will lock the wheels and throw them into a skid. Instead, pump the brakes slowly.
12. If they feel the wheels lock, get off the brake immediately, then pump the pedal again.
13. Bad weather isn't the only cause of skid conditions. Gravel or sand roads to and from a job site will also increase stopping distance. A fast turn-off from a tar road onto sand can throw your vehicle into a skid, or make it impossible to stop in time. Be sure to slow down before driving off the paved roadway.
14. A tractor and trailer that has been overloaded can also be the cause of skidding. The load can push the tractor forward when the brakes are suddenly used.

### Try this for show and tell!

Have the group list conditions that can increase the possibility of skidding. Make sure they include snow, rain, ice, loose gravel, and mud. Remind them that decreasing speed is the best way to overcome these conditions.

### Questions you can use to get them talking:

1. Has anyone had any close calls or actual skidding accidents? (If they have had accidents, ask them how they could have been prevented.)
2. How are the road conditions on our job site? Is there enough traction at the entrance from the road?
3. While we tell you to slow down in bad weather, it's hard to do if someone's also is telling you to get to your destination in a hurry. Has anyone been put in the situation, where you feel like someone's rushing you when the weather or traffic conditions say "slow down"?