

## Driving Safety

### Driving in the Rain

It's no surprise that the accident rate always goes up during the rain. Because wet roads are slippery roads, it pays to slow down and increase your following distance by one or two more seconds, as soon as it starts to rain. Most people assume that the wetter a road is, the more dangerous it is. But in fact, roads are often at their most dangerous just as the beginning of the first storm after a long dry spell. This is because the rain hasn't washed the road free of accumulated grease.

Avoid driving through puddles or flooded roads because puddles can hide hazards. Water on the road can hide dangerous debris or potholes. It can also flood your brakes so that they don't work just when you may need them the most. If your brakes do get wet, dry them out by driving while holding the brake pedal down – just until the brakes begin to work again. When there is water on the road, check the road ahead and behind for frequently large vehicles that can send a blinding spray of water across your windshield.

Hydroplaning most often happens in a light mist or drizzle. When cars travel at high speeds – 50 mph or more – on wet and/or oily roads, the tires are not on full contact with the road. They are riding on a layer of water and/or oil. Because there is no contact with the road, it's impossible to brake or steer. To prevent hydroplaning:

- Slow down to less than 50 mph, as soon as it starts to rain
- Keep tires properly inflated, replace tires with worn tread
- Drive in the tracks of the vehicle ahead of you

### Aggressive Driving

We all know about aggressive driving. We may have observed it on the highway – tailgating, speeding, sudden lane changes, horn honking and NOT observing posted signs. Fatigue and an increase in daily stress, including traffic congestion, can turn us into aggressive drivers. How can we maintain self-control?

- Realize that aggressive driving is unnecessary and dangerous
- Recognize and modify our own driving behaviors
- Avoid confrontations with aggressive drivers
- Learn to drive more courteously
- Become a good driver role model.

The following are five safety tips from CarFax available on YouTube:



