



For more than two decades, speeding has been involved in approximately one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities. In 2017, speeding was a contributing factor in 26 percent of all traffic fatalities. Speed also affects your safety even when you are driving at the speed limit but too fast for road conditions.

Driving too fast for conditions is defined as traveling at a speed that is greater than a reasonable standard for safe driving. Examples of conditions where drivers may find themselves driving too fast include: wet roadways (rain, snow, or ice), reduced visibility (fog), uneven roads, construction zones, curves, intersections, gravel roads, and heavy traffic.

Below are some tips that will help you maintain a safe speed for various driving conditions.

### **REDUCE YOUR DRIVING SPEED IN ADVERSE ROAD AND/OR WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Adjust your speed to safely match weather conditions, road conditions, visibility, and traffic. Excessive driving speed is a major cause of fatal crashes, and higher speeds may cause more severe crashes.

You should reduce your speed by 1/3 on wet roads and by 1/2 or more on snow packed roads (i.e., if you would normally be traveling at a speed of 60 mph on dry pavement, then on a wet road you should reduce your speed to 40 mph, and on a snow-packed road you should reduce your speed to 30 mph). When you come upon slick, icy roads you should drive slowly and cautiously and pull off the road if you can no longer safely control the vehicle.

When it first starts to rain, water mixes with oil on the road making it particularly slippery.

### **ENTER CURVES SLOWLY**

Speed limits posted on curve warning signs are intended for passenger vehicles, not delivery trucks. When driving a delivery truck, you should reduce your speed even further. Relative to passenger vehicles, the trucks used by parcel delivery drivers and couriers have a high center of gravity, which make them more prone to rollover.

Reduce your speed before entering the curve, as braking in a curve can cause the wheels to lock up and the vehicle to skid.

### **CONSIDER THE CAUSES**

Speeding (including driving too fast for conditions) is a type of aggressive driving behavior. Do some self-reflection and see if you personally identify with any of the following causes of aggressive driving behavior. If so, decide to counter them with safe driving behaviors.

**TRAFFIC** – Some drivers may respond to traffic by using aggressive driving behaviors, including speeding, changing lanes frequently, or becoming angry at anyone who they believe impedes their progress.

**RUNNING LATE** – Some people drive aggressively because they have too much to do and are “running late” for their next obligation.

**ANONYMITY** – Even when a vehicle has the name of your employer on it, the truth is that most people will not take the effort to report aggressive driving. For that reason, many drivers feel as if they have some degree of anonymity and as a result are less constrained in their behavior.

**DISREGARD FOR OTHERS AND FOR THE LAW** – Sometimes people speed because they are overly-confident in their own driving abilities and have driven “safely” without consequence.