



# WINTER DRIVING

GET READY FOR WINTER

## CONTROLLING SPEED FOR CONDITIONS

Driving too fast for conditions is a major cause of truck collisions. You must adjust your speed depending on driving conditions. These include traction, curves, visibility, traffic, and hills.

There are three things that add up to total stopping distance:

**Perception Distance + Reaction Distance + Braking Distance = Total Stopping Distance**



### 1. Perception Distance

This is the distance your vehicle travels from the time your eyes see a hazard until your brain recognizes it. The perception time for an alert driver is about 3/4 second. At 55 mph, you travel 60 feet in 3/4 second.

### 2. Reaction Distance

The distance traveled from the time your brain tells your foot to move from the accelerator until your foot is actually pushing the brake pedal. The average driver has a reaction time of 3/4 second. This accounts for an additional 60 feet traveled at 55 mph.

### 3. Braking Distance

The distance it takes to stop once the brakes are put on. At 55 mph on dry pavement with good brakes it can take a heavy vehicle about 170 feet to stop. It takes about 4.5 seconds.



## TOTAL STOPPING DISTANCE

*The heavier the vehicle, the more work the brakes must do to stop it & the more heat they absorb.*

*But the brakes, tires, springs & shock absorbers on heavy vehicles are designed to work best when the vehicle is fully loaded.*

*Wet, snow packed and icy roads significantly increase stopping distance.*

*Speeds have to be adjusted for safe operation and control for surrounding conditions.*

