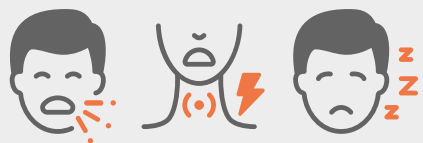




SPRING DRIVING

Did you know?

- One of the biggest hazards and challenges of spring driving is low sun. You must ensure you can see where you are going.
- Use the vehicle's sun visor and wear sunglasses to minimise glare.
- You must ensure your windscreen is kept clean and your washer and wipers are working properly.



Millions of drivers suffer from spring allergies that cause runny noses, itchy eyes and sore throat. Many rely on medications that induce drowsiness which then places them at risk behind the wheel. Before combining any allergy medication with driving, read the instructions or consult with a pharmacist.

As temperatures start to rise, road speeds tend to also increase. Take care to watch speeds, especially in school zones or other areas where pedestrians or cyclists are present.

Spring hailstorms are common and even small hailstones can shatter windscreens when traveling fast. Ice fragments left from hailstorms can also create hazardous driving conditions.



Best practice tips:

- Slow down for spring showers. The roads are the most slippery when it first begins to rain. This is caused by the rainwater mixing with contaminants on the road, such as oil and diesel. Increase the following distance (up to four times the normal required stopping distance) to allow for adequate braking.
- Check tyre condition and inflation on a monthly basis. During the winter months, tyres lose air due to the cold temperatures, causing them to be underinflated. Less tread means reduced traction and increased fuel consumption.

Springtime driving hazards to be aware of:

Severe winter weather can leave behind potholes in the road that can cause damage to vehicles. Avoid swerving, instead, gently press on the brakes in a controlled manner to retain control of your vehicle.



Stay alert to the increasing amount of road users, especially motorcyclists and cyclists during springtime. Always check the surrounding area several times before manoeuvres such as changing lanes, turning, or reversing.

Look out for animals crossing the road as they emerge out of hibernation.