

We can do better

CEDAR CITY, Utah — A pickup truck carrying five teens hit an embankment and overturned "several times" early in the morning, killing two and seriously injuring three occupants, according to Utah Highway Patrol.

None of the five teens in the truck were wearing seatbelts and the crash ejected all five of the occupants.

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Winter Driving Safety

Driving safely in winter weather can be a challenge for even the most experienced driver. It's easy to forget after months of mild conditions that snow and ice demand careful driving and special preparation for your vehicle. But when 17 percent of all vehicle crashes occur during winter conditions it's clear that we could all use a refresher when it comes to making our way through a winter wonderland.

Cold Weather Driving Tips

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Tips for Driving in the Snow

- Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- **Increase your following distance** to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- **Know your brakes**. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- **Don't stop if you can avoid it**. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- **Don't power up hills**. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- **Don't stop going up a hill**. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Upcoming Events:

The American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) will be conducting a Virtual Winter Workshop Series

Will be conducted virtually through Zoom! The workshops will assist driver educators in continuing their education, improving their teaching skills, and will relate to current issues in driver education. Workshops will be 3 - 4 hours in length and teachers/instructors can earn up to 16 Hours of Professional Development. Please share with your teachers/ instructors. More information to follow. Check <u>here</u> for updates.

| • | January 25, 2022 1:00 PM EST | February 22, 2022 1:00 PM EST |
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| • | January 27, 2022 1:00 PM EST | February 24, 2022 1:00 PM EST |