



All Transmissions

3113 S Pine Street -Tacoma, WA 98409

253-627-0252

Fall Driving Tips

Fall is a nice time of year here in the Pacific Northwest, but the Autumn offers some dangerous driving conditions that most people just don't even think about. We have selected some driving hazards that can be avoided if you are aware of them. Please, take a look at the following information regarding several problem areas.



School Buses

In September the school buses return (except in Marysville). Watch out for school buses and children, especially early in the morning and the afternoon. Remember, you can't pass a school bus with its red lights flashing. You must stop. Watch for school zones and reduced speed limits.

Watch Out for Leaves

Once leaves become wet they can become as slippery as ice! Watch for patches of wet leaves in the roadway. As nights get cold wet leaves can turn to icy leaves.

Drowsy Time

Daylight Savings means the clocks are turned back one hour. That one hour change can have several effects:

You may become easily tired until your body has adjusted to the time change. You must adjust to commuting in the dark.

Incidences of drowsiness are much higher during the first weeks following the time changes.



Tire Pressure

With our frequent temperature changes in the Pacific Northwest tires expand and contract. This may cause them to lose air. Low air pressure is a major factor in accidents where the driver loses control.

Carry Sunglasses

You won't need them for a dip in Puget Sound, but you may need them as the sun rises and sets closest to due East and West . . . especially at commute time. Sunglasses can cut glare which reduces danger almost 100%.

Fog and the Low Beams

With the autumn comes fog. Since we have many lakes as well as miles and miles of shoreline, fog is a constant problem. Keep your headlights on the low-beam. This aims the light at the road. High-beams aim up and into the fog. That's not good.



Halloween

Be careful, especially in family neighborhoods. Children may be out trick-or-treating. Children may be wearing costumes or masks which limit vision. Dark costumes may blend in with the surroundings.

Deer Crossing

Deer will be trying to avoid hunters and may cross roadways. The risk of deer/vehicle collisions is greatest during Autumn and early Winter. Two thirds of these crashes occur in October, November, and December when deer movements peak due to the onset of the breeding season.

Here are some suggestions for avoiding deer:

Use extreme caution if driving at dawn and dusk, when deer are most active and visibility is poor. This means deer are often most active during peak commuter traveling times.

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Slow down when approaching deer standing near roadsides. Deer may “bolt” or change direction at the last minute.

If you see a deer cross the road, slow down and use extreme caution. Deer often travel in groups – if you see one, expect more.

Use flashers or a headlight signal to warn other drivers when deer are spotted on or near the road.

Use caution and be alert when passing through areas marked with deer crossing signs. These

signs are placed in areas that have shown a high incidence of deer/vehicle collisions in the past.



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