



## FLEET SAFETY

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# Drive to the conditions

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# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## Welcome

Welcome to Fleet Safety training. This module examines driving at an appropriate speed, known as driving to the conditions.

This module will take **10 minutes** to complete.

### Fleet safety quiz

At the end of the module there is a short quiz to check your understanding of driving to the conditions.



# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## Learning objectives



Once you have completed this module you will be able to:

- ☒ explain how road, traffic and weather conditions affect a driver's ability to drive safely
- ☒ identify the distances it will take you to stop safely under different speeds and in various conditions



## Module overview

You will need to complete the following sections to complete the module:

1. Why is it important to drive to the conditions?
2. What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?
3. Road quiz.
4. Further information.

► ***You'll need to think about how you apply this knowledge with commercial fleet managers you work with.***



## DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS

# Why is it important to drive to the conditions?



*The speed limit is not always the safest speed. Road, traffic and weather conditions can affect your ability to drive safely. Drive to the conditions.*



# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

**Is this statement true or false?**

Although you may be driving to the speed limit, you may be using inappropriate speed for the conditions.

**True**

**False**



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## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

True

Even if you stick to the speed limit, you may still be driving at an inappropriate speed for the conditions. In New Zealand drivers experience a wide range of road, traffic and weather conditions. Unfortunately inappropriate and excessive speed are common causes for road crashes, because we don't always adjust to the conditions around us in a way that we should.

► ***Inappropriate speed is when a driver drives within the speed limit but still too fast for the conditions. Excessive speed is when a driver exceeds the speed limit.***



# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

### Speed (excessive and inappropriate)

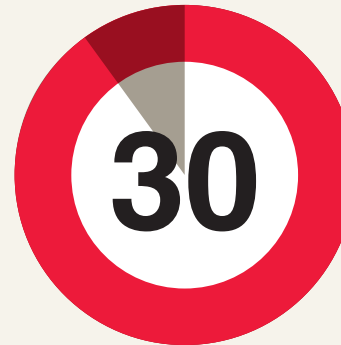
Drivers who speed crash more often than those who don't. At higher speeds, there is less time to identify and react to what is happening. You can lose control easily, especially if you have to brake suddenly.



### Did you know?

As a result of speed it is often other road users and pedestrians who come off worse.

- If you are driving at 30 kph and hit a pedestrian, they have a 90% chance of surviving
- If you are travelling at 50 kph and hit a pedestrian they only have a 25% chance of surviving.





# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

**Drive to the conditions** is about being aware of how the weather, physical road conditions and other road users can affect your ability to drive safely.

- ***It is clear from crash statistics that many drivers underestimate how changing road conditions can increase their risk of being involved in an accident.***



# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS

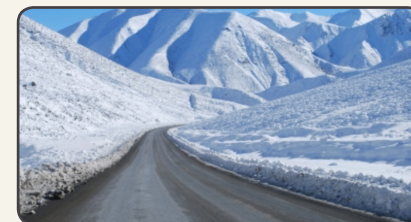


## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

### The weather

Here are some tips for driving in **fog, rain, ice** or **snow**:

- Plan your journey to allow for slower speeds due to the conditions, with regular rest stops for longer trips
- If possible, leave later in the morning to avoid sunstrike or driving when roads are icy. There may be black ice on the road, especially in shaded areas
- Stay overnight if you intend being away from home for longer than 13 hours
- If possible, share the driving on longer trips
- Check out the weather forecast before you travel. Call the New Zealand Transport Agency highway info line on 0800 44 44 49
- Reduce your speed and adjust your following distance, especially in wet weather. This will give you more time to react when your visibility is reduced.



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## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

### Road conditions

Adjust your driving depending on the different type of **road surface**.

When travelling on a **winding and narrow road**, brake gently and reduce your speed as you approach a corner. Keep left and don't cut corners.

When travelling on a **poorly maintained** road watch for hazards. Be prepared for potholes or uneven surfaces.

Around road works, watch out for the safety of road workers and loose gravel.

When you are travelling on **gravel roads**, slow down and avoid sudden braking – it is easier to lose control and slide.

On **greasy roads**, increase your following distances. It takes longer to stop and you are likely to slide if you brake suddenly.



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## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

### Traffic

You will need to slow down and adjust your driving to allow for:

- increased volume of traffic during holidays, events, peak hour or school pick ups
- driver fatigue (your own and that of other drivers) – if you travel early in the morning or late at night you (and other drivers) are more likely to feel tired and less alert
- increased stress during peak hour traffic – traffic jams and crashes can make drivers feel frustrated and angry.



► ***Watch out for other road users such as vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Allow more time for travelling when there's lots of traffic – that way all road users will get to their destination safely.***



# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## Why is it important to drive to the conditions?

If we all drive to the conditions or roads will be much safer. Consider the impact on other road users when we don't. The faster you drive the less time you have to respond to hazards and the more likely you'll suffer serious injury in a crash.



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# What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?



## DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



### What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?

Dave from Same Day Delivery Couriers is travelling along a local school road at 50 kph on a wet day. A young girl runs out onto the road. Dave has to stop suddenly.

**How long do you think it will take his vehicle to stop?**

**20 metres**

**40 metres**



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What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?

**40 metres**

If Dave was travelling at 50 in wet conditions it will take him 40 metres to stop. That's almost half the length of a rugby field.

Remember – if Dave hits the girl while travelling at 50 kph, she would only have a 25% chance of surviving.

On this occasion the girl made it to the other side, shaken but safe. It could have been a very different story.

► ***Don't take the gamble. It's not worth it.***



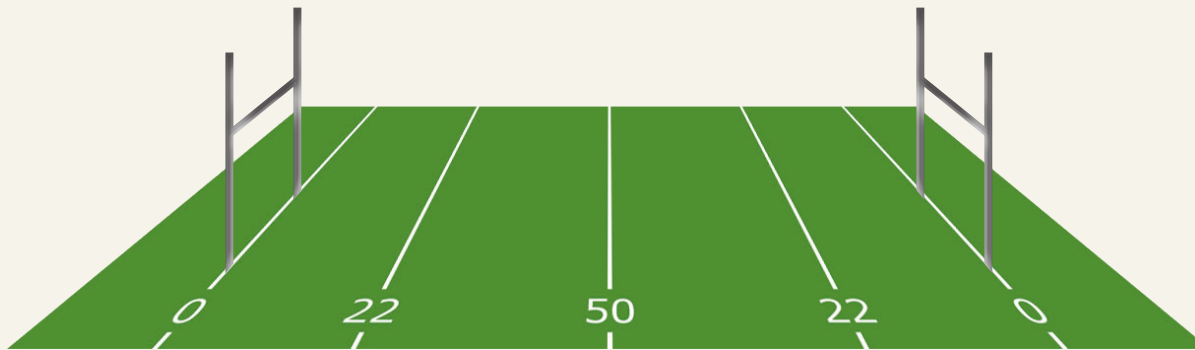


# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?

You might want to take note of this information. Have a look at how long it takes you to stop if you are travelling at 50 kph in different conditions.



If you were travelling at 50kph in dry conditions it would take 30 metres to stop.



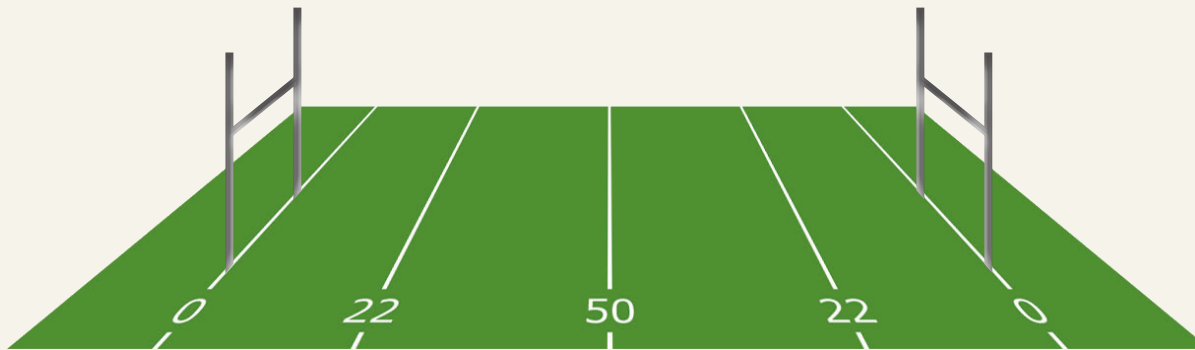
If you were travelling at 50kph in wet conditions it would take 40 metres to stop.

# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



## What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?

You might want to take note of this information. Have a look at how long it takes you to stop if you are travelling at 100 kph in different conditions.



If you were travelling at 100 kph in dry conditions it would take 93 metres to stop.



If you were travelling at 100 kph in wet conditions it would take 130 metres to stop.





## What are the safe stopping distances for a vehicle?

How long it takes you to stop also depends on the quality of your vehicle.

- What condition are your tyres in?
- Are your tyres under or over inflated?
- Are your brakes in top shape?
- What safety features (anti-lock braking system or electronic stability control) does your vehicle have?

There is also a time delay before your brain recognises there is a hazard on the road in front of you and hit the brake.

► ***Reduce your speed, adjust to the weather, traffic and road conditions.***

DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS

# Road Quiz





## Road Quiz

**1** As long as you keep to the speed limit, you'll always be driving at an appropriate speed.

True

False

**2** When travelling on a narrow winding road, you should reduce your speed as you approach a corner, even if you are travelling to the speed limit?

True

False

**3** It takes 30 metres to stop if you are travelling at 50 kph in dry conditions.

True

False

**4** It takes 93 metres to stop if you are travelling 100 kph in wet condition, almost the length of a rugby field.

True

False





## Road Quiz

- 5 It is clear from crash statistics that many drivers underestimate how changing conditions can increase their chance of being involved in an accident.

True

False

- 6 Poor weather conditions often lead to reduced visibility. If you're driving in these conditions, what should you do to ensure a safer journey?
- A Reduce your speed and adjust your following distance, to give yourself more time to react.
  - B Stick to the speed limit, so that you get to your destination and off the road as quickly as possible.
  - C Drive no faster than 20 kph, so that other drivers can easily overtake you, even in the poor conditions.

# DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



**7** Is this statement true or false? While travelling in the morning or late at night you are likely to avoid peak hour traffic, so you'll be able to drive at the speed limit for your whole journey.

True

False

**8** Is the following statement true or false? If you are travelling at 50kph and hit a pedestrian they only have 25% chance of survival?

True

False





## Road Quiz - Answers

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6  Reduce your speed and adjust your following distance, to give yourself more time to react.
- 7
- 8



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# Further information

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## Further information

**ROSPA Road Safety website – [www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com)** ➡ has useful information on winter driving tips.

**NZTA – Official Road Code website – [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)** ➡ has useful information on safe following speeds. Check out the 2 and 4 second following rule.