

Get ready for winter driving conditions

Resources:

[Shift into Winter | A Comprehensive Guide to Winter Driving in BC](#)

[Energy Safety Canada | Journey Management: A Program Development Guideline](#)

[Energy Safety Canada | Safety Bulletin—Winter Tires](#)

[Alberta Motor Transport Association \(AMTA\) | Winter Driving Program—Online Course](#)

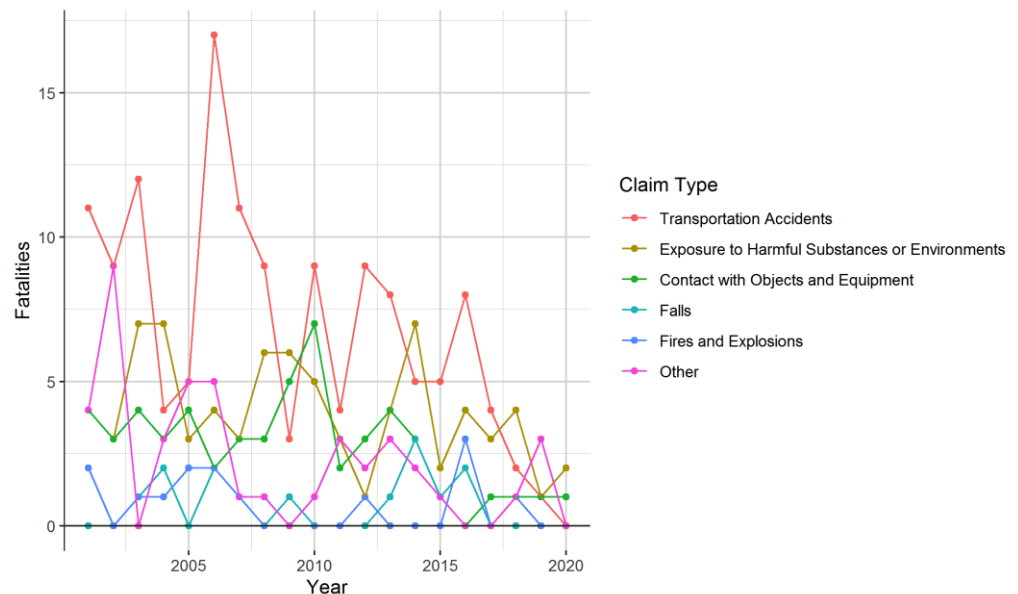
[Government of BC | Winter Tire and Chain Routes](#)

[WorkSafe Saskatchewan | Reducing the risk of motor vehicle collisions](#)

Did you know?

- In oil and gas, driving injuries are the fifth most common type of WCB claim¹ across all western provinces, and the number one work-related fatality.
- During the winter months, nearly one-third of all work-related crashes result in lost time and injury. In British Columbia² alone, fatalities and severe injuries due to driving too fast for the conditions double from fall to early winter.

Fatal Incidents, Western Canada O&G



Be prepared:

Drivers require appropriate winter driving equipment, including winter tires and suitable clothing, and their vehicle must be in good working order. Equally important is the ability to adapt plans according to the road conditions. Even the most experienced driver can be challenged by the sudden weather changes.

Employers are responsible to educate workers who drive as part of their job about the policies and procedures for when changing weather affects them. Drivers should follow those rules and develop a journey management plan for each trip and share with their supervisor or manager.

¹ 2020 WCB claim average

² ICBC Police Reported Data “driving too fast for conditions”, 2015-2019 Sep-Dec

Be winter ready:

- **Vehicle preparation**
 - Install winter-rated tires **before** winter weather arrives.
 - Inspect your existing vehicle emergency [kit](#) and, if necessary, replace items or install a new kit.
 - Perform pre-season maintenance: ensure the vehicle is in good working order, fluids are topped up, and change to a cold weather-rated radiator and washer fluid.
 - If applicable, inspect tire chains and chain rack / storage to ensure are secure when not in use.
- **Drivers**
 - Ensure your cell phone or other communication devices are fully charged in case of an emergency and remember that cold temperatures impact battery life.
 - Know the safe stopping/braking distances for the vehicle.
 - Review how to maneuver out of a skid and avoid spinning the tires.
 - Be familiar with the rules of the road for each province you travel through.
 - Confirm techniques to safely pass slow-moving or highway maintenance vehicles.
 - Travel at a safe distance behind other vehicles.
 - Know what to do if you get stuck in snow and make sure you have the right equipment to deal with it.
 - Take a winter driving course—there are several available online.
- **Journey management**
 - Check weather and road conditions before each trip.
 - Avoid or postpone driving when road or weather conditions are poor.
 - Give yourself extra time to get to your destination.
 - Select a route, or work with your dispatcher, to determine a safe route, where you can be sure the roads are regularly plowed and maintained.
 - Have a plan if the vehicle experiences mechanical failure.
 - As part of your journey management plan, check in with appropriate co-worker, supervisor or manager before you leave and when you arrive at your destination.
- **Life Saving Rules**
 - Know and follow the [Life Saving Rule](#) for Driving.



DRIVING

Follow safe driving rules

- I always wear a seatbelt
- I do not exceed the speed limit, and reduce my speed for road conditions
- I do not use phones or operate devices while driving
- I am fit, rested and fully alert while driving
- I follow journey management requirements