

# VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

February 2017

*Subject: Driving Skills:*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Adjusting to Weather Conditions*

Location (garage, mm, etc...):

Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Employee

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**PROBLEM:** No matter how well you know the road you're traveling, it is dangerous when there is sleet, snow, ice, or rain on the roadway. So, reduce your speed on slippery roads.

**WHAT WE CAN ALL DO:** When you drive on wet pavement, you have to look ahead in order to anticipate emergencies and avoid the need for sudden maneuvers. Most skids are caused by last-second stops and turns on slick pavement. Adjust your speed and increase following distances when approaching intersections and traffic signals.

Extra care should be taken when approaching the top of the hill. Be prepared to brake as you travel over the top of blind hills in case the roadway is not clear ahead. On the downside, both loss of traction and gravity are working against you.

The lighting system of your vehicle becomes especially important during the winter months. Nights are longer and visibility is often reduced by bad weather. You should inspect lights more often during the winter and clean them when necessary so you can see and be seen by other drivers.

Foul weather driving is strenuous enough, so driving in a closed cab with the heater running is not recommended. It is too comfortable and relaxing—this can reduce your reflex capacities. Fresh air helps keep you alert. An open window is one of the oldest safety practices and helps you hear what is going on around your vehicle.

**If you have any questions or comments regarding this Safety Tailgate Talk or any safety related concerns, please contact the VTrans Safety Team.**