

Disaster Management Road Safety Tips

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- **Check Weather and Road Conditions:** Monitor weather forecasts and traffic updates before starting your journey.
- **Inspect Your Vehicle:** Ensure your brakes, lights, tyres, wipers, and fluid levels are in good working condition.
- **Fuel Up:** Always keep your fuel tank at least half full in case of unexpected delays or detours.
- **Emergency Kit:** Carry a disaster-ready emergency kit including:
 - o First-aid supplies
 - o Flashlight with batteries
 - o Reflective triangle or road flares
 - o Blanket
 - o Water and snacks
 - o Phone charger or power bank

DURING BAD WEATHER OR FLOODS

- **Practice Desistance When Driving** Drivers are encouraged to practise desistance, which means knowing when not to proceed. If conditions are unsafe—such as extreme weather, poor visibility, or a hazardous road surface—it is better to delay the trip or stop in a safe location. Avoid taking unnecessary risks; rather arrive late than never.
- **Drive Carefully on Slippery Surfaces**
Road surfaces can become extremely slippery during or after rain, and especially where oil or mud is present. In such conditions:
 - o Reduce your speed.
 - o Avoid sudden braking or turning.
 - o Increase your following distance.
- **Avoid Roads with Spillages, Especially from Trucks**
Be alert to roads where trucks or other heavy vehicles may have spilled dangerous materials such as sand, stones, chemicals, or industrial waste. These spillages can create unexpected hazards:
 - o Report any observed spillages to the relevant authorities.
 - o Avoid using roads with visible debris or slick material.
 - o Do not drive over unknown substances, as they may cause loss of traction or damage to your vehicle.
- **Do Not Speed in Poor Visibility (due to rain, fog, mist, smoke or poor visibility)**
When mist or smoke reduces your visibility:
 - o Slow down immediately.
 - o Turn on your headlights (use fog lights if available but avoid high beams as they reflect light and reduce visibility).
 - o Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.
 - o If visibility becomes too poor, pull over safely and wait until conditions improve.

Vir noodgevalle, kontak u Raadslid of skakel ons nooddienste onmiddellik by:

041 508 55 66/67.

Disaster Management Road Safety Tips



Avoid **crossing** low-lying bridges, streams and rivers.



Motorists must be **very careful** and avoid **driving** through flooded areas.



The public must monitor **weather alerts** on radio and television.



Do not try to drive over a **low-water bridge** if water is flowing strongly across it and the ground is not visible.



Be especially vigilant at **night**. It is harder to recognise potentially deadly road **hazards**.



Do not **camp** or **park** your car along rivers or washes, especially during heavy rains or thunderstorms.



Do not cross through **Flooded roads** or **bridges** - use other **routes**.



Never drive through moving or standing water - as little as 30 cm of water can carry away a vehicle.



Drive to park at **safer areas**



When threatened, contact your emergency services, disaster management centre, fire and emergency Services, contact number (041 585 1555, 112, 1011).



Raise children's awareness about the dangers of flooded roads.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

- **Stay Calm:** Pull over safely and turn on your hazard lights.
- **Call for Help:** Contact local emergency services or Disaster Management teams, contact numbers (041 585 1555, 112, 1011)
- **Stay Inside the Vehicle:** If safe, remain inside your vehicle until help arrives.

Stay Informed

- Tune in to local radio stations or follow official Disaster Management social media for alerts and evacuation instructions.

If Evacuation is Advised

- **Follow Designated Routes:** Stick to recommended evacuation routes and avoid shortcuts.
- **Drive with Caution:** Watch for emergency vehicles and road crews.

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