

The following text covers various aspects of driving safety, including navigating hills and curves, driving at night, and driving in different weather conditions. It advises drivers to slow down and use caution when approaching hills and curves, provides tips for driving at night, and offers advice for driving in inclement weather such as rain, fog, and ice. Additionally, it highlights the dangers of hydroplaning and provides guidance on how to respond if it occurs.

HILLS AND CURVES Hills and curves can hide obstructions in the road, even on familiar roads. Be prepared to stop when approaching a curve or hill that obscures your view of the road. How to change lanes while passing another vehicle Colorado Driver Handbook 16 If you cannot see over the top of a hill, slow down to an appropriate speed until you crest the hill and regain sight of the roadway. Always slow down before entering a curve. If you go through a curve too fast, your tires will not be able to grip the road and your vehicle will skid. Begin your acceleration only after reaching the middle of the curve. **NIGHT DRIVING** Driving at dawn and dusk can be more hazardous than driving during the day. This is due to limited visibility, the limited area illuminated by your headlights and the blinding effect of headlights with fog lights. Colorado law requires you to drive with your headlights on from sunset to sunrise or when visibility is less than 1,000 feet. One way to reduce risk is to drive with your low beam or daylight running lights on at all times. Any vehicle parked alongside the roadway, whether attended or not, must have parking lights turned on from sunset to sunrise or whenever visibility is less than 1,000 feet. Do not drive with only your parking lights on. Tips for driving at night: ● Use your high beam lights when driving in rural areas and on open highways away from urban and metropolitan areas. ● If you are driving with your high beam lights on or your low beam lights with fog lights on, you must dim them before coming within 500 feet of any oncoming vehicle so the oncoming driver is not blinded by the glare. ● When following another vehicle, you must use your low beam lights, with your fog lights off, if you are within 200 feet of the vehicle ahead of you. ● Never look directly into an approaching car's headlights. As the vehicle draws near, drop your sight below the glare and use the painted edge lines to guide your vehicle. Lift your gaze back up when you have passed the oncoming vehicle. ● Use your low beam lights and/or fog lights when driving through fog at night for better visibility. Using high beam lights in these conditions is like shining your lights on a mirror. ● Increase your following distance when driving at night or on unfamiliar roads. ● Be alert to vehicles, including bicyclists, traveling after sunset without their lights on. ● Slow down and stay alert in poorly lit areas where vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists or animals might be traveling. ● Look for the single front light of bicyclists and motorcyclists traveling at night. **WEATHER** Weather can significantly affect how your vehicle drives regardless of whether your vehicle has front wheel, rear wheel, four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. In weather conditions such as rain, fog, ice, high winds and dust, the two most important actions you can take are to slow your speed and increase your following distance. Some additional inclement weather driving tips include: ● Use your headlights if visibility is poor. ● If the highway is wet or icy, do not use cruise control. ● Do not drive through large bodies of standing water on the road. If you see a flooded roadway, find another route to get to your destination. In wet weather, your tires can begin to ride on the water that is on top of the road pavement. This is called hydroplaning and can cause complete loss of traction and control of steering. Tires that have more wear can be at increased risk so be sure to check your tires' tread depth regularly. If it feels like your tires have lost traction, or contact with the surface of the road: ● Take your foot off the gas pedal to allow the vehicle to slow down. ● Slowly begin steering in the direction you are hydroplaning until you have control. (although this seems contradictory, this actually helps your tires to realign with your vehicle so they are both going the same direction) ● Steering needs to

be slow. Don't jerk the wheel or you could flip your car due to overcorrecting. ● Do not try to stop or turn until your tires are gripping the road again.