

Stay Safe in Winter Driving

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While winter is officially ten days away, winter weather is here now, along with the challenges this places on drivers and fleet operators. In a previous newsletter, we reported that as tracked in our Fleet CRASH System, instances of crashes with the City fleet doubled on snow days. Snowy conditions mean slippery roads and greater visual impairment, especially at night.

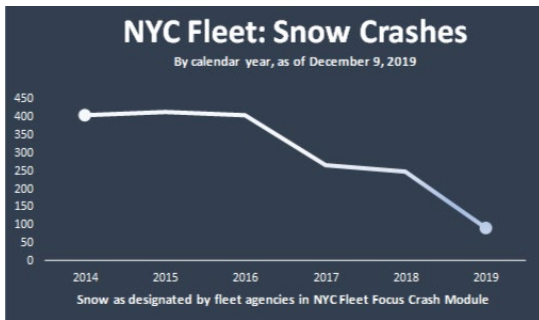


City agencies like DSNY, NYPD, FDNY, DOT, Parks, and DEP don't have the option to stay home and off the roads during these conditions, and face even greater demands on their critical services.

The good news is that crashes during tough weather are not inevitable. We have seen a steady decrease in snow related crashes as reported in NYC Fleet Focus. There are some important steps we can all take to ensure this trend continues:

* **Stay off the roads if you can.** Plows, emergency trucks, and repair crews must brave the elements. Many of our administrative and support units do not need to be on the roads. The best way to avoid a weather related crash is to opt for public transportation during storms.

* **Ready your vehicle before-hand** for bad weather driving. Check the readiness of your tires, wiper-blades, and fluids especially. Make sure all your windows and mirrors are clear before starting your trip. Keep an ice scraper and small shovel in the car. If your vehicle has 4x4 capacity, use it.



* **Drive slowly and cautiously, leaving safe distance at all times** between your car and other cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The increased periods of darkness and the unpredictable road conditions leave no room for chance. Please check out additional tips from NHTSA at the link here: [NHTSA Snow Tips](#).

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