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Branscome Richmond
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Midlothian VA 23112

TAILGATE/TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING
Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division,
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Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

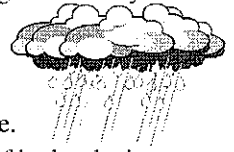
Topic 629: Hydroplaning (Motor Vehicles)

Introduction: Hydroplaning in a motor vehicle is dangerous because the tires temporarily leave the surface of the roadway causing the operator to lose control of the vehicle. Serious and sometimes fatal hydroplaning accidents occur when the tires make contact with the road surface after the vehicle changes direction. One quarter of an inch of water can cause a vehicle to hydroplane out of control.



Following are safety guidelines for avoiding hydroplaning accidents while operating a motor vehicle:

- **When** driving a motor vehicle while it is raining, or when the roadway is wet, motor vehicle operators must watch the roadway for water hazards. Keep an eye out for running water, standing water, and deep puddles.
- **Always** use caution and common sense for determining the safe driving speed while it is raining, or when driving on roadways after it has rained. Driving at the posted speed limit may not be safe during extreme or uncommon rainstorms.
- **Layers** of water can build-up on a roadway during a heavy rainstorm. Even when the road is designed with a crown, the water may not run-off quickly enough to prevent hydroplaning.
- **Always** look a safe distance ahead so water hazards can be seen before reaching them. Slow down when possible.
- **Tires** must be kept in good condition with the correct amount of air pressure in them. To reduce the possibility of hydroplaning, some tires are designed to push water out from between the road surface and the tire. Inspect your tires before driving in the rain.
- **Shock absorbers** and struts are designed to keep the tire on the road surface. Driving a vehicle over a layer of water on the roadway with worn-out shocks or struts can allow the tires and wheels to bounce up and down, causing them to temporarily lose contact and traction with the road surface. Have your shocks checked during routine servicing.
- **Springs** that are in good condition will assist in keeping the tires on the road when it is raining. Vehicles that are driven over rough surfaces on a daily basis are likely to have weak, worn-out, or broken springs. Springs can wear out after many years of normal driving on well paved roadways. Have your springs checked during routine servicing.
- **Always** keep windshield wipers in good condition and working correctly. When it is raining so hard that vision is impaired, (even with properly working windshield wipers), pull off of the road, to a safe place, until the rain slows.
- **Many roadways** allow water to build-up on the shoulder or in gutters. Vehicles can hydroplane on one side. This type of half-hydroplaning can be just as dangerous as when all four wheels lose contact with the roadway. Slow down.
- **Driving** through flooded shoulders and gutters can cause water to splash into the engine compartment, causing the engine to stall. A dead engine can cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle. Drive slowly through the shoulders and gutters. When possible, drive in a lane that will allow you to avoid these water hazards.
- **Slow** the vehicle when entering areas with standing water. Never drive into standing or flowing water that appears to be so deep that it may be unsafe. Six inches of water is enough to fill the brake drums with water and affect the braking of the vehicle.
- **Never** drive a motor vehicle through water that is flowing across a roadway. A vehicle can easily be lifted off of the roadway and start floating in the direction that the water is flowing. The roadway may have been washed away. The engine could stall trapping the operator in the vehicle. Do not enter. Go back the way you came and find an alternative route.



Conclusion: Many motor vehicle operators will not have sufficient experience driving on wet surfaces in areas where there is very little rainfall. Always drive with extra caution when it is raining. Utilize these safety guidelines to avoid hydroplaning accidents while operating motor vehicles.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: _____
(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Branscome Richmond Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.