



Accident Preparedness

Have you ever wondered what causes an accident? Most accidents are rarely caused by one thing such as mechanical problems. Throw in bad weather, a tired driver or heavy traffic and your potential for an accident increases. Here are a couple of tips to decrease accident probabilities:

- Pre-trip walk around inspections are not only required by the DOT in interstate transport but they should be given the top priority in accident avoidance along with random checks as you drive across country.
- Drive according to the weather, not the speed limit. Slow down in driving rain and snow storms. Make sure your headlights are on. Increase your following distance. Braking takes longer on slippery roads — the slower you go, the easier it will be for you to stop. Make sure you are prepared for the conditions.
- Driving tired is like driving drunk. Just like alcohol or drugs, fatigue slows reaction time and impairs judgment.

Despite our best efforts, accidents do happen, and in case of an accident or an emergency, being prepared is the best way to ensure the situation does not get worse, preventing further injury and/or property damage. These items should be in your vehicle and up to DOT standards before you head out:

- **Fire Extinguisher(s).** Fully charged and securely mounted.
- **Spare Fuses.** At least one spare fuse for each type/size of fuse needed for applicable parts and/or accessories.
- **Warning Devices.** Be thoroughly familiar with the proper placement of these devices for different roadways and/or nearby obstructions.