WHY IS WET WEATHER DRIVING DIFFERENT?
• Driving in wet weather is more demanding because of factors including poor visibility, reduced traction and deep puddles.
• Rain stirs oil and debris from the road surface, making roads slippery.
• The amount of water on the road, your speed and the condition of your tires affect traction.

SEE AND BE SEEN
• Keep your windshield clean.
• Be sure your wipers remove water from the windshield without streaking.
• Use your defroster to keep windows clear.
• Wet roads can splash mud and dirt on your headlights, reducing illumination up to 90 percent. Stop periodically during a long trip to clean your headlights.
• Use daytime running lights or low-beam headlights at all times.
• Anticipate spray coming from passing trucks and oncoming cars, which may blind you temporarily.
• When visibility is so limited that you can’t see the edges of the road or other vehicles, pull off in a safe area and wait for the rain to ease up.
  - Try to stop at a rest area or exit the freeway.
  - If the roadside is your only option, pull off the road as far as you can, preferably past the end of a guardrail.
  - Vehicles parked at the side of the road are frequently struck by other vehicles.
  - Turn headlights off and emergency flashes on to alert other drivers.

DON’T GO DEEP
• Don’t drive through deep water on a flooded road.
• Deep water can disable your vehicle or even float it off of the road surface.

MAXIMIZE YOUR TRACTION
• Ensure adequate, full tread, which allows water to escape from under the tires.
  - Check tread depth by placing a penny into a tread groove head first. If the tread covers President Lincoln’s head, your tires have sufficient tread.
• Properly inflate your tires — low tire pressure reduces the tire’s ability to wipe or channel away water.

How to avoid hydroplaning
• Slow down
• Avoid braking hard or turning sharply
• Drive in the tracks of the vehicle ahead of you.

Cruise control = lose control
• Cruise control can be dangerous in wet driving conditions.

Handling a rear-wheel skid
• Take your foot off of the brake if the rear wheels skid due to hard braking.
• Ease off the gas pedal if the rear wheels lose traction due to hard acceleration (rear-wheel drive).
• Steer in the direction you want to go.
• When the rear wheels stop skidding, continue to steer to avoid a skid in the opposite direction.
• Once the vehicle has straightened out, accelerate gently.

Antilock brakes (ABS)
• Antilock brakes prevent wheel lock-up and retain steering during hard braking.
• Do not pump antilock breaks.
• Keep steady pressure on the brake pedal and steer.

GETTING OUT OF A TOUGH SPOT
• When wheels are stuck in the mud, apply power slowly.
• Keep the wheels pointed straight ahead.
• If you can’t go forward, try backing out, steering in the vehicle’s tracks.
• With a manual transmission, start in second gear to prevent wheel spin. Accelerate gently and ease along gradually until traction improves.
• Rock your way out by using second gear in a manual transmission or low gear in an automatic transmission. Check your owner’s manual for recommended procedures.
• Create traction:
  - Use mats, gravel, burlap or vehicle floor mats.
  - Shovel a space in front of the drive wheels and spread materials there.

STEERING CLEAR OF COLLISIONS
• At speeds above 25 mph, it’s safer to steer around an obstacle than to brake.