

WINTER WEATHER FACTS: What to do if you encounter Whiteout Conditions

Wind is a major threat when snow is falling. Wind-driven snow like the kind you see in squalls can create “whiteout” conditions, reducing visibility significantly or altogether. A snow squall can strike suddenly and without warning. Driving safely during the winter months requires checking weather reports and road conditions by the hour if you can.

If you find yourself in a squall, unable to see the road or other cars, what can you do? PennDOT recommends the following:

- Slow down, reducing your speed gradually and considerably, and drive at a speed that is safe for conditions.
- Turn on your full headlights. Daytime running lights will not allow other drivers to see your headlights or tail lights.
- Stay in your lane.
- Increase your following distance. Stay well behind other vehicles.
- Stay alert, keep looking as far ahead as possible, and be patient.
- Reduce in-car distractions; your full attention is required.
- Keep windows and mirrors free of snow and ice, and use your defroster and wipers. Special formulas for clearing and defrosting windshields are available to buy.
- Come to a complete stop only when you can get far off the road as safely as possible, or where there is a safe area to do so. A safe place is one that does not obstruct traffic, such as a parking lot or service station. **Stay there until the storm ends.**



Township of

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