



## WINTER DRIVING

### Do you know the difference between Black and White Ice?

Winter driving can be inconvenient, annoying, even infuriating. But you can offset those aggravations and minimize the special risks of winter driving.

#### **ICE**

Expect icy conditions any time the outside air temperature reaches 40 degrees F or lower. Although water freezes at 32 degrees F, road surface can freeze when the air temperature drops to 40 degrees or less. An important place to watch for this condition is on bridges. Bridge surfaces are exposed to the wind and cool off faster than the rest of the road. You should also prepare for icy conditions on roads through shaded areas where a cold wind can freeze a wet road surface.

#### **WHITE ICE**

Snow that has been compacted during the day and has slightly melted will freeze at night. Usually this white ice can be seen on the road. When traveling on white ice, drive very slowly. If you cannot find a place to park until conditions improve, install tire chains for better traction.

#### **BLACK ICE**

Black ice, clear water that has frozen on black pavement, usually forms below overpasses, on bridges, in areas that are surrounded by landscape or on a source of water running across pavement. Black ice commonly occurs in low, shaded areas and/or when the road surface starts to freeze at night. You usually cannot see or feel this ice until the vehicle is already on it. You may not expect a patch of ice because you've been driving on dry, clear pavement. It may be an area where melting snow or a roadside spring caused water to run onto the road and freeze. If you are not aware that the water has frozen, you could lose control and the vehicle could skid.

#### **Online Loss Control**

**Paul Hanson Partners** offers a variety of loss control videos and online courses that explain how winter conditions present additional hazards for drivers. Topics include traction, steering and braking, danger zones, and winter preparation.

You can access your training site from the Mover's Choice Training portal located at [www.trainingentry.net/paulhanson](http://www.trainingentry.net/paulhanson).