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This is Lieutenant Larry Depee, Commander of the California Highway Patrol, Crescent City Area. As winter approaches, it's important to adjust your driving habits to the changing road conditions. It is difficult at best, to predict what the weather and road conditions will be like when you need to go out.

Many crashes result from driving too fast, so the first and foremost tip is to slow down. It's a simple matter of physics that your vehicle can't stop as fast, or turn as well on wet or icy pavement. And in fog, reduced speed is equally important because your vision is impaired.

Prepare for potential inclement weather by leaving early, allowing plenty of time to get where you're going. Make sure your gas tank is full. And always leave plenty of distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. It takes much longer to stop in wet roadway conditions than it does when the roads are dry. Having been driving in dry conditions during the summer months, we can easily forget during the first rains of the season that roadways become very slick and require us to immediately adjust our habits.

Also, check to see that your windshield wipers are in good condition before the weather hits. A little bit of prevention can go a long ways. You can also check in advance for highway information and road closures and plan your trip accordingly. There are numerous phone numbers and web pages that can provide this information.

If you would like more information on these numbers or web pages, or any other information, please feel free to contact us. Additionally, please follow us on Facebook for the most current news and information from the California Highway Patrol.

Thank you.