

FACT SHEET

Autumn: Road safety.



Around October, every year the first reports start popping up in the news: falling leaves aggravate traffic. As soon as leaves start falling things can go wrong, not only on the railway, but on roads as well. Autumn is a beautiful season, but it can bring a lot of turbulent weather. Traffic jams caused by accidents, sudden rain showers and, when wintertime starts darkness falls earlier.

Awareness

Your employees will need to deal with these circumstances once again. By making and keeping them aware of the risks in traffic, a great deal of misery can be prevented. Loss prevention stands or falls with constant attention to road safety. Each season has its own risks and it makes sense to make your employees aware of these.

Inform your employees about the importance of clean windscreens and wiper blades that work properly for optimal visibility. The crash rate in traffic is twice as high when it rains. This means that extra attention is needed. Be aware that other road users can suddenly apply their brake, will probably drive more slowly and will be less visible in traffic.



Remember that the first frosty nights can appear once again and cause slipperiness. By keeping track of the weather forecast, the driver can adapt his driving style to poorer weather conditions. Think about keeping more distance in case of slipperiness and rain, adapting your speed and also allowing for enough travel time.

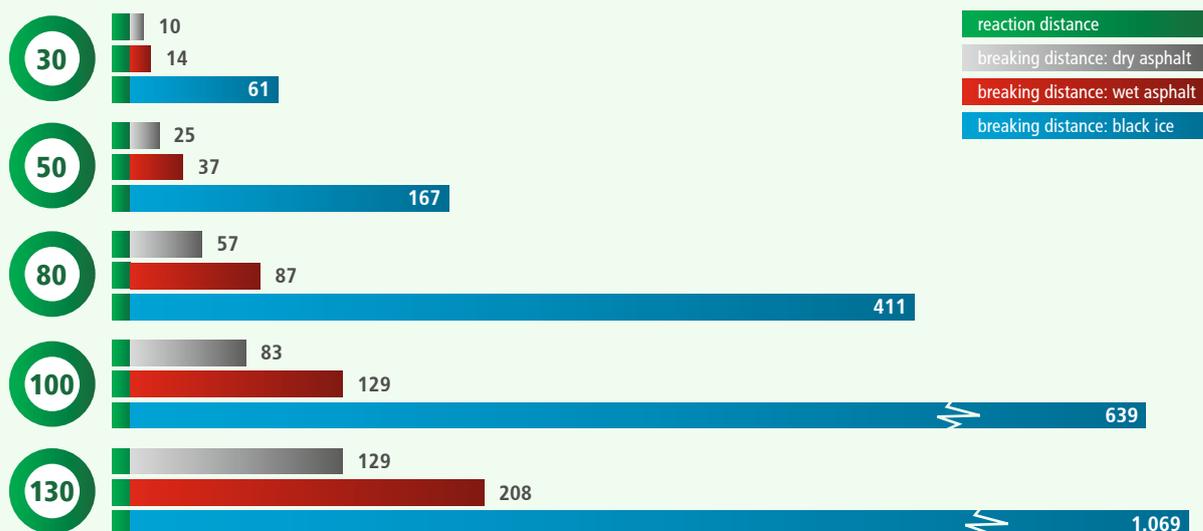
In the event of a storm, be aware of the possible risk of overturning on bridges and viaducts as well as spinning on the motorway, either you yourself or other road users.



Vehicle lights

Automatic lights, especially in newer cars, do not always work in foggy conditions. Fog is not recognised by the light cell that switches the lights on and off. Keep this in mind and turn on the lights manually at the first sight of fog. It is precisely then that you need your rear lights the most. Use dipped headlights or daytime running lights even during the day, especially in low sunlight conditions. The oncoming traffic may look into the sun and will see you better with your lights turned on. Make sure you have good sunglasses in your car so that you won't get blinded by the sun or reflection from the road.

Stopping distance in metres



Rutting season

In September the rutting season starts: male deer go out looking for a female. A deer may suddenly run onto the road. Be extra alert in the evening and in forested areas and keep to the applicable recommended speed. If you come across a deer on the road and braking is still no longer an option, then you should not try to avoid the collision. A sudden evasive action may prevent a collision with the deer, but in the split second you have to react you may not look to see if it is safe to move to the side.

Cabin temperature

Autumn days can feel cold so the heating inside the cabin already works. Because of this comfortable feeling, there is a greater chance of falling asleep behind the wheel. Make sure that it does not become too warm to stay alert. Use air conditioning, especially in rainy conditions, to prevent windows from becoming steamed up.

Contact

For questions and/or more information you can contact us via:

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Winter tyres

In some countries winter tyres are compulsory in winter conditions such as ice, snow and frost. These conditions are not just limited to winter, but also occur regularly in autumn. Make sure you are well informed about the regulations in the countries that apply to you. It is better to opt for real winter tyres than all-season types. The softer rubber compound and special winter tyre tread give more grip, even when the road is slippery because of fallen leaves.

Benefits of HDI Risk Consulting

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- Qualified international Risk Engineering network offers clients worldwide multi-discipline support in Risk Engineering.
- HDI Risk Consulting is a wholly owned subsidiary of HDI Global SE and thus part of the Talanx Group, one of the largest insurance groups in Germany and Europe.