

## TOP TIPS FOR ROAD USERS IN WET, FLOODED, AND WINDY CONDITIONS

When driving in wet and windy conditions road users need to take particular care. Specifically drivers should heed the following advice

- It takes longer to stop a vehicle on wet roads so slow down and allow extra distance between you and the vehicle in front.
- Watch out for falling/fallen debris on the road and vehicles veering across the road
- Control of a vehicle may be affected by strong cross winds. High sided vehicles and motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable to strong winds
- Take special care when driving behind goods vehicles as they generate a considerable amount of spray which reduces your visibility
- Allow extra space between you and vulnerable road users such as cyclists and motorcyclists
- Drive with dipped headlights at all times
- Be aware of the danger of aquaplaning especially on roads with 100 km/h and 120 km/h roads.
- Check tyres and replace them if the thread depth is below 3mm

With added risks posed by wet or flooded roads the RSA has the following advice;

- If the road ahead is flooded choose another route, do not attempt to drive through it. Flooded roads that appear shallow could be deeper than you think.
- After going through water, drive slowly with your foot on the brake pedal for a short distance - this helps to dry the brakes.
- Sometimes roads can be closed due to their fragile state after wet weather or because they are blocked by flooding.
- Road users should always follow recommended routes and obey signs closing roads to traffic
- Watch out for washed out roads, earth slides, broken water or sewer mains, loose or downed electrical wires, and fallen or falling objects

Advice for Pedestrians & Cyclists;

- Be seen. Wear a high visibility jacket or reflective armband
- Walk on a footpath, not in the street. Walk on the right hand side of the road, facing traffic if there are no footpaths
- Take extra care when near traffic or crossing the road in extremely windy conditions as a sudden gust of wind could blow you into the path of an oncoming vehicle.

The RSA has prepared a helpful guide 'Severe Weather Advice for Road Users' which you can download from the RSA's website. It has lots more useful advice on dealing with the difficult road conditions in all kinds of severe weather.