



Zero Fatalities
Zero Lost Time
Zero Road/Speed Incidents
Zero Environmental Incidents
Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 27

Date: 13 July 2020	Focus Group: Vehicle Drivers
Topic: Winter Driving – Black Ice	Issued by: Craig Fisher

Background and Incident: An empty log truck hit a patch of black ice while travelling toward a bend causing the rear of the truck to slide off the road and scrape along a fence. Fortunately, the driver has managed to regain enough control to ensure the truck avoided a stationary vehicle that had also slid on the ice a few minutes earlier.

Injury Details: Non-injury. Damage sustained to the truck, posts, and fence line.

Risk Awareness: Winter conditions including black ice can make driving treacherous. Generally forming where shading prevents the road from drying out and moisture re-freezes on the road, often transparently, making it very hard to see.

Safe Behaviours: How to make winter driving safer...

- **Pre-start check** – that tyres have the correct tread depth and pressure; de-ice and clear windows to improve all-round visibility.
- **Driving** – Increase the following distance to 5 seconds to allow more space to stop. Scan ahead to anticipate other road users or shaded areas and adjust your driving accordingly. Monitor in-vehicle thermometers as a guide to outside temperatures.
- **On black ice** – Never hit the brakes! Hold the steering wheel steady while not overcorrecting. Reduce speed and allow your vehicle to pass over the area (often less than 6m long). If in a crash – watch out for vehicles in the same predicament.

For Site Manager use (print this document and then complete):

This safety alert is relevant to my site? Yes or No (circle one). If yes, complete the following actions:

1. This safety alert has been discussed with employees and operators
2. I have placed this safety alert on the site notice board or in the safety file

Site Manager: _____
(signature)

Date: / /