

Beautiful day Barton!

It's Kansas weather for sure! It gives me the unique ability to talk about fires in dry conditions AND about driving in wet conditions! Two birds with one stone!

Outdoor Fire Prevention

- *Do not light fires outside designated areas. Examples of designated areas are camp grills or burn barrels.
- *Do not burn on windy days.
- *Do not discard cigarette butts out of moving vehicles (ours was started by a carelessly discarded cigarette!)
- *Smoking (and any tobacco use) is not allowed in buildings, and at least 20 FEET from entrances.
- *Discard cigarettes in given containers or butt cans.
- *Do not throw trash in butt cans.
- *Extinguish or "field strip" cigarettes before discarding in butt cans.
- *Call immediately when fire or smoke are detected. Don't wait, fire spreads quickly in these conditions.
- *Remember, only you can prevent wildfires!

Health & Safety Concerns – Driving Through Flooded Areas & High Water
Mansfield, OH — The Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department and the Richland County Safe Communities Coalition offer the following information about driving during heavy rains, through high water, and in flooded areas:

- Slow down early, before you encounter a problem, and be aware that you have less grip available from your tires - for stopping, steering and accelerating. Remember: Even four-wheel-drive and anti-lock brakes can't change the laws of physics.
- Even a new tire can begin to hydroplane on wet surfaces, so watch your speed. If the steering begins to feel light and the car is splashing through deep puddles, gently reduce your speed to allow the car to slow to a more manageable speed. Don't lift the gas pedal abruptly or hit the brakes, since this could unsettle the tires' grip on the wet surface.
- Never drive your car through deep water on a flooded road. You simply cannot tell how deep the water is. It doesn't take much water to disable your vehicle or even float it off of the road surface. If you have any doubt about water depth, stop and go back the way you came. If you must drive through deep puddles, gently press the brake pedal one or two times afterwards to help dry the brakes before you need to use them to stop the car.
- Use the speeds on your windshield wipers to help remove the amount of water that is hitting the windshield. This sounds simple, but some people forget that at higher road speeds you need the highest wiper speed.
- Be aware of the spray coming from passing trucks and oncoming cars. It may blind you temporarily, so anticipate this by turning on (or increasing the speed of) your wipers and by looking at what's happening to cars ahead of you.

- If it begins to rain very lightly after a long dry spell, the water will mix with the oils on the road to produce a very slippery surface. Treat these conditions with great caution since even new tires won't give much grip on this oil-and-water mixture.
- Turn down the radio and turn off your cell phone. Driving in heavy rain demands much more of your attention than driving on dry roads.
- If conditions become too intense, pull far off the road in a safe place to wait out the storm. If your car becomes disabled, pull as far off the road as possible, turn on your four-way flashers and call for help. Stay in your car.

Driving in Mud – Mobiloil.com

- *If you have 4x4, engage it before entering muddy or slippery conditions.
- *Slow and steady. Drive at a low speed and keep it steady. Easy on the gas.
- *Don't spin your tires, as soon as that happens, you have lost any traction.
- * Don't use D1 gear, it is too strong of a gear and will induce spinning. Try D2 and go easy on the accelerator.
- *Don't slam on the brake. It locks the tire and induces the slide. Simply step off the accelerator, mud will slow you down really quickly on its own.
- *Keep it as straight as possible and don't oversteer. Turning causes drag and will bog you down. If you are heading towards the shoulder, ease it slowly back to the road.
- *Try to stay out of the ruts. They may be wider or deeper than your vehicle to handle. Also, once in the ruts, your vehicle will stay in the ruts and you have lost your ability to steer.
- *Once out of the mud, drive slow for a while and then slowly accelerate. Give a little time to throw off the mud at a slow rate instead of slinging it all over at high speeds.
- *If you get stuck, try "rocking" your vehicle first. Alternate between drive and reverse, but take it easy and don't spin! It will bury your tires deeper!
- *Try putting your floor mat or rocks under the tires to give you more traction.
- *After you get out of the mud, clean your vehicle. Mud that sticks holds moisture and scratches your vehicle, therefore promoting rust.

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