



Safety Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Cruise Control

As the spring rains approach, here is a reminder about the hazards of using cruise control while driving in the rain. In a hydroplane situation, the only way to stop wheel spin and maintain control is to immediately reduce power. An activated cruise control will continue to supply power and keep the wheels spinning. By the time you deactivate the cruise, you may have already lost control of the vehicle.

While many of our company service vehicles may not be equipped with cruise control, many of our personal vehicles have this feature. Below is a story of one driver's experience.

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. A resident of Kilgore, Texas she was traveling between Gladewater & Kilgore. It was raining, though not excessively, when her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence!

When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON. She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain, but the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on when your car begins to hydro-plane and your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane. She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred.

The patrolman said this warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor - NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY, along with the airbag warning. The only person the accident victim found, who knew this (besides the patrolman), was a man who had had a similar accident, totaled his car and sustained severe injuries. Some vehicles (like the Toyota Sienna Limited XLE) will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on. (Source unknown)



Don't engage your cruise control on slippery roads. Snow, ice, slush and rain can cause wheel spin and loss of control to which you must react quickly. The extra reaction time needed to disengage your cruise control could be critical time lost in controlling your vehicle.