

Safety Briefing: DRIVING ON WIND FARMS

This IWEA safety poster gives some tips on what should be included in your Method Statement / Risk Assessment before accessing a windfarm, as well as guidance on what to include in your own site-specific checklists. The guidance relates to standard vehicles only – abnormal loads or crane loads will require their own site rules, Traffic Management Plan / Route Assessment and Risk Assessment

Driving in MOUNTAIN AREAS

- Ensure vehicle is appropriate for conditions
 - Is 4 wheel drive required?
- Use lower gears to control your vehicle down a slope
- On gravel roads, take curves on a wider arc than you would normally on a paved road
- On narrow tracks, give right of way to the vehicle travelling uphill

Driving in HIGH WINDS

- Reduce your speed
- Ensure all cargo is adequately secured
- Expect sudden gusts which may blow you off course - keep both hands on the wheel (10 and 2)
- Watch out for debris being blown across roads, and for isolated trees in danger of collapse

Driving in FOGGY CONDITIONS

- Ensure road edge is visible
- Drive within limits of visibility
- Use fog lights appropriately

Driving in ICE & SNOW

- Remove all snow from vehicle before departure
- Check your grip on road surface by choosing a safe place to brake gently.
- Ensure road edge is visible
- Accelerate and brake gently
- Brake progressively on the straight before a bend. Having slowed down, steer smoothly round the bend, avoiding sudden actions
- Drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible to avoid wheel spin
- Keep radio off to listen for sudden reduction in tyre noise when skidding

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Pre-Departure Checklist

- Site Induction—Emergency Plan
- Site contacts, access control procedure
- Adjust your driving according to the weather conditions
- Confirm all vehicle service records up to date

Internal Vehicle Inspection

- No loose obstructions, all items such as toolboxes properly secured
- Mirrors properly aligned
- Safety belts adjusted, working correctly
- All instrument gauges & warning lights working correctly
- Brakes work correctly
- First Aid Kit, Hi-visibility triangle, de-icer, torch, warm clothing, jump leads, shovel, water
- Spare tyre and spare tyre toolkit are in place and in good condition
- Fire Extinguisher & Hi-visibility Vest
- Snow and Ice removal equipment (scraper)

External Vehicle Inspection

- Tyres (undamaged, 1.6mm depth, correctly inflated, wheel nuts secure)
- Lights (working & clean, Also check indicators, reflectors, hazards)
- Windows (completely clean, wiper blades in good condition)
- Mirrors (clean, secure)
- Body (Bumpers; exhaust; Check doors open, close & lock correctly)
- Vehicle sitting square with no leaks underneath
- Fluids topped up (fuel, oil, coolant, brake fluid, window-washer)
- Fuel cap seal in place

Disclaimer: The contents of this briefing is intended for information and general guidance only, do not constitute advice, are not exhaustive and do not indicate any specific course of action.

Detailed professional advice should be obtained before taking or refraining from taking action in Relation to any of the contents of this briefing or the relevance or applicability of the information herein.

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