

## Safety Alert

# Driving in High Winds

**What do I need to consider when driving in extreme weather conditions such as high winds?**

- **Is the journey necessary?** Remember it is best to avoid making a journey by road unless absolutely necessary.
- **Am I prepared?** If driving in such conditions is unavoidable, be prepared and always expect the unexpected.



**Always watch out for the following:**

- Vulnerable road users such as; pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.
- Falling and fallen debris on the road.
- Vehicles veering across the road. Remember, control of a vehicle may be affected by strong cross winds - high sided vehicles and motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable.
- The potential for gusts of wind at open areas, where gaps in high buildings and hedgerows create a wind channel.
- Other road users' reactions to unexpected events.
- Flooding across roads

**Remember** - notify Gardaí about fallen debris on the road and **NEVER** stop to remove debris on a motorway.

## What do I need to do?

### Managers and Supervisors:

- Ensure all staff receive a copy of this alert.
- Keep driving and road safety to the fore in all safety conversations and briefings.

### All Drivers:

**Before you drive:**

- Take note of all local weather alerts and associated driving information and advice.
- Plan your journey before leaving, decide your route. Know how long you should be travelling and tell somebody when to expect you.

**If you have to drive:**

- Be situationally aware and continually risk assess your surroundings - expect the unexpected.
- Allow plenty time for your journey.

### Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists

- Wear suitable clothing and footwear to withstand the wind and cold. This will help you maintain good concentration and focus. It will also protect the rider/pillion against fatigue and hypothermia.
- Be seen - wear bright clothing with reflective armbands or a reflective belt.
- Walk on a footpath, not in the road. If there are is no footpath, walk on the right-hand side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.

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