

UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY PLANS FOR DRIVING IN ADVERSE WEATHER



An article from Risk Control Services

Weather accounted for 12% of all vehicle crashes in 2021, with rain cited as the reason for more than half.

We know that adverse weather conditions impact safe driving, and the type of weather a driver experiences varies by part of the country and season. Rain, freezing rain, ice, snow, fog, and smoke can be encountered in every part of the country. Help avoid crashes and other unintended consequences of driving in adverse weather conditions by preparing your vehicle and adjusting your driving style for the conditions.



• Preparing your vehicle:

includes journey management, vehicle maintenance, vehicle inspections, and packing supplies in the vehicle for weather conditions you may encounter.

• Adjusting your driving style:

includes, increasing following distance, planning extra time, fueling the vehicle more frequently, and following recommended operating techniques.

An adverse weather plan will vary depending on the type of vehicles and locations where the vehicles operate, but it should include the following:

- Follow manufacturer's maintenance schedules.
- Inspect vehicles prior to use.
- Establish a communication system to contact drivers regarding situations they may encounter.
- Keep a mobile phone charging cord, safety kit, and warm weather gear in your vehicle.
- Develop a plan to stop work or vehicles traveling based on current and expected conditions.
- Recognize that sleet and flash over ice can create an ice-covered roadway.
- Recognize that **6-inches of water** is enough to lift and move a vehicle. **One-foot of water** is enough to float a vehicle.
- Don't drive into standing water. **"Turn around don't drown."**

Some types of adverse weather require additional planning, such as having equipment in the vehicle. This applies mostly to cold weather, when ice scrapers and other supplies should be kept in a vehicle. In some parts of the country, evacuating vehicles from flood-prone areas could be included in your plans.

Reviewing your emergency plans to deal with adverse weather and the situations you may encounter should be part of your risk control planning.

The Importance of Regular ALI Inspections for Automotive Lifts

Why Are ALI Inspections Essential?

Safety First

Let's face it: automotive lifts have one of the toughest jobs in the garage - lifting vehicles that can weigh thousands of pounds. And over time, that wear and tear can creep in, potentially putting people and vehicles at risk. Regular ALI inspections catch problems early, whether it's worn-out cables, a hydraulic leak, or components that aren't lined up properly. It's all about keeping everyone safe!



Compliance with Standards:

The Automotive Lift Institute sets rigorous safety and performance standards for vehicle lifts. Regular inspections ensure that your lifts comply with these industry standards, which may also be required by OSHA or other regulatory bodies. Staying compliant not only avoids fines but also promotes a culture of safety and professionalism in your garage.

Save Money in the Long Run:

Spotting small issues before they become big problems is key to saving money. Regular inspections help you avoid large, expensive repairs or even the cost of replacing a lift entirely. Think of it as an investment in your equipment's future!

Improving Efficiency:

A lift that's well-maintained works better, plain and simple! When your equipment is running smoothly, you'll experience fewer interruptions, helping you get the job done faster and more efficiently.

What Does an ALI Inspection Involve?

An ALI-certified inspector will thoroughly evaluate all aspects of your lift and depending on the make & model, this may include up to 120 points of inspection.

These points include:

- Structural Integrity
- Safety Features
- Hydraulic System
- Electrical Components

After the inspection, you'll receive a detailed report highlighting any areas of concern and recommendations for maintenance or repairs.

How Often Should Inspections Be Conducted?

For new lifts, any time an automotive lift is installed, it should be inspected. Otherwise, the frequency of ALI inspections depends on usage, but most experts recommend annual inspections at a minimum. For high-use facilities, semi-annual or even quarterly inspections may be necessary. Always refer to the manufacturer's guidelines and consult with an ALI Certified Inspector to determine the best schedule for your lifts.