



# Did YOU know?

## Wet Winter Days

Use the mirror heaters to keep the mirror from fogging when transitioning from the bay to the outdoors, and to evaporate ice or water from the face of the mirror. Find the mirror heat control NOW.

A snowplow operator's trick is to pull down the sun visor and trap the warm air from the defroster near the top of the windshield. This is especially useful when driving in active precipitation.

Keep the dashboard clear so the defroster can work. Do not block the vents with helmets, gloves, hoods, clipboards, traffic vests, towels, candy bar wrappers, National Geographics, water bottles, or any of the other items that often find a home against the windshield.

Know how the climate controls work in your unit BEFORE you hit the road. Engage the defroster before you leave the firehouse. Attempting to find the defroster controls while traveling down the road leads to distractions and confusion in the cab.

Keep the interior of the cab windows clean for quicker de-fogging; and you'll have enough trouble seeing out the windows during snow/ice/rain/fog without looking through a layer of dirt.

Turn on your headlights and other marker lights during all travel. While using the vehicle lighting is a good practice every day; winter weather makes it essential.

Top off your windshield washer fluid reservoir. The washer fluid not only keeps your windshield clean, it can work as a de-icer for your wipers and the glass.

**SLOW DOWN, SLOW DOWN, SLOW DOWN.** Increase your following distance. You need more time to see, more time to stop, and more time to maneuver.

Drivers should enhance their visibility in preparation for catching a hydrant or operating in the roadway upon arrival. If you drive wearing a chore coat or some other form of uniform jacket that isn't inherently hi-visibility, consider pre-setting a vest over your jacket. During times of winter precipitation the enhanced visibility of a vest or turnout coat could mean the difference between being seen and being run over while you are concentrating on setting the pump, chasing kinks, or setting the aerial stabilizers.

Anticipate all stepping surfaces on the apparatus to be slippery. Running boards, access ladders, and aerial turntables are exposed and freeze quickly. Work as a crew to avoid climbing or dismounting with tools in your hands. Keep your hands free to grab handrails.