

## Driving in Snow and Ice



The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared and that you know how to handle road conditions.

### **Tips:**

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses, and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

Aggressive drivers are becoming the norm, according to a Media and Injury Prevention Program at the University of Southern California.

"Aggressive driving is now the most common way of driving," says co-director Sandra Ball-Rokeach. "It's not just a few crazies -- it's a subculture of driving."

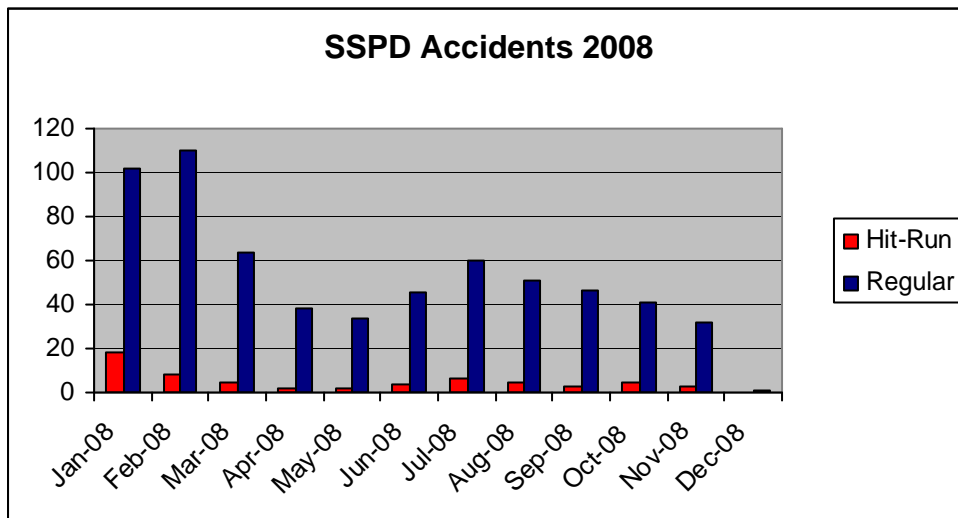
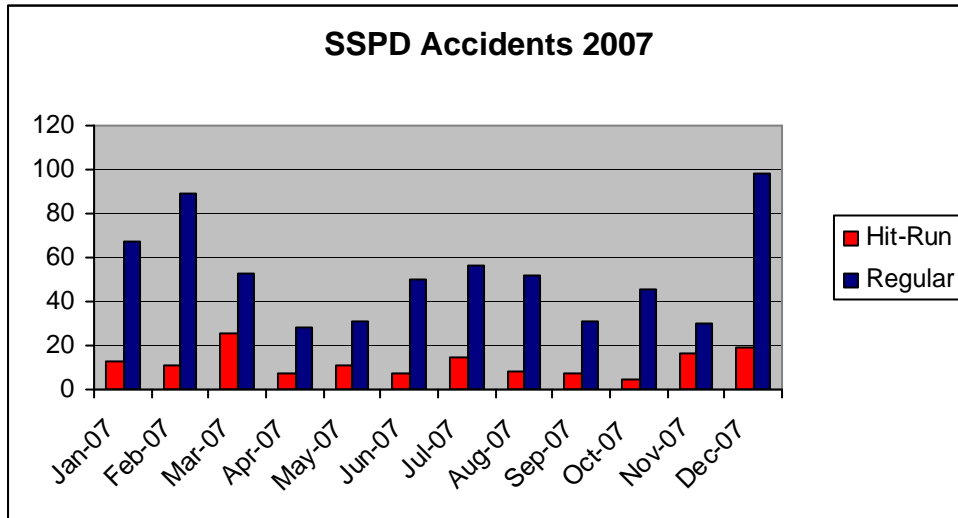
Stories of aggressive drivers chasing, punching, or shooting their victims are common. But you might avoid becoming a victim if you know how to remain calm and avoid acting upon your feelings.

## Are you an aggressive driver?

Do you:

- Speed up when someone tries to pass you?
- Tailgate people who are going slower than you?
- Weave in and out of traffic?
- Pass cars on the right?
- Flash your headlights at vehicles?
- Overuse your horn?
- Make obscene gestures?
- Yell out your window at people?
- Race for a position on the road or highway?

The charts below are traffic accidents reported to the Steamboat Springs Police Department that occurred in the City limits during 2007 and 2008 (December 2008 stats are not available as of yet).



***Remember to always drive safely, be attentive, and be a courteous driver!***