



Zero Fatalities  
 Zero Lost Time  
 Zero Road/Speed Incidents  
 Zero Environmental Incidents  
 Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 59

<b>Date:</b> June 2023	<b>Focus Group:</b> Vehicle Drivers
<b>Topic:</b> Black Ice	<b>Issued by:</b> Nic Steens

**Background and Incident:** During this recent cold snap a driver has reported sliding on black ice on shaded roads. In past winters, similar incidents have been classified as high potential as they have involved crews of workers and/or multiple vehicles.

**Injury Details:** No injuries or damage. This toolbox safety alert is precautionary advice.

**Risk Awareness:** Black ice can cause vehicles to spin 360 degrees or more, and have ineffective braking, which are extreme risk factors for a crash. With NIWA advising above-normal temperatures this winter – frosty periods may catch drivers off guard! Please be alert to (black-ice) conditions and take extreme care!

**Safe Behaviours:** here are some tips:

- Always pre-check your vehicle for the correct tread depth and tyre pressure.
- Properly de-ice your vehicle before setting off – to ensure all-round visibility.
- Leave extra distance/space between you and other road users.
- Keep an eye on vehicles ahead that may suddenly swerve for no apparent reason.
- Avoid over-steering and heavy braking – drive slower.
- Black ice forms in sheltered areas without creating bubbles, ‘blending’ with the road.
- Ice patches average < 6 metres – if you lose traction, stay calm and don’t brake. If you start going off the road, steer the vehicle gently to the safest place.
- If you crash, quickly evaluate whether it is safer to stay in your car or to get out of it.

**For Site Manager:**

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /  
 (initials)

