

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 64

Date: August 2023	Focus Group: Vehicle Drivers
Topic: Cruise Control	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: Driving to work on an icy morning a driver was using adaptive cruise control, following another vehicle. His vehicle automatically slowed down, but too vigorously to match the vehicle in front. At the same time, his vehicle ran into an icy patch causing it to slide out of control for a short distance.

Injury Details: No injuries or damage to any parties but a high potential for both.

Risk Awareness: Icy roads can cause decreased tyre grip, leading to longer stopping distances and decreased maneuverability. Cruise control might not react as swiftly as a human driver (or overreact) increasing the risk of skidding or losing control.

Safe Behaviours:

- Always remain aware of your surroundings and be ready to brake when necessary.
- Avoid using cruise control on icy, slippery or congested roads where sudden changes are more likely to occur (it's best used on longer straighter stretches of highway).
- Maintain a safe following distance, even if the adaptive cruise control is active, as this allows ample reaction time in case of sudden changes and technology glitches.
- Keep the vehicle's radar sensors and cameras clean* by following the manufacturer's guidelines – especially after driving on wet/unsealed roads or if insects frequent the area where the vehicle is parked.

* Use mild soap and water. Insecticides are not recommended as these can affect/degrade the electronic sensors.

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)

