



Did YOU know?

Traction

Without traction you...

go nowhere,

stop in unfortunate places, or

travel in a straight line until you meet another object.

What causes a loss of traction?

Poor tire condition—have you checked the condition, inflation, and tread depth on all of your apparatus tires today?

Poor surface condition—did it just start raining? Has it been a while since the last rain? How much water is standing on the road? Is the road surface cracked, buckled, rutted, or otherwise deteriorating? Is the surface frozen or near freezing?

Speed—kinetic energy QUADRUPLES as speed doubles. Do you have too much energy coming into a turn or approaching a stop?

Weight—stops, starts, or turns that cause weight to transfer from front to back or side to side that can break traction

What can you do to maintain traction?

Check your tires for CID. Follow inflation and tread depth guidance to maximize the amount of rubber in contact with the road surface in any weather.

Be familiar with your apparatus and how it handles on nice days and nasty days.

Operate smoothly to avoid excessive weight transfer in the vehicle due to acceleration, deceleration, or sharp steering. Slow is smooth; smooth is fast. Gain and lose speed in straight lines; not in curves.

Reliance upon the vehicle systems to establish boundaries for the driver is a poor practice and engagement of antilock brake, stability control, or traction control systems should be an *exception* not a routine.