

HILLS

Rural roads don't have divider lines, so be cautious of oncoming traffic that might be traveling in the middle of the road, especially in areas where there are hills. Slow down and move as far to the right as possible as hills are climbed.

MUD

On wet, rainy days, rural roads can quickly turn to slippery mud, and it's common to encounter soft shoulders on the roads where rain may have washed out part of the road. Additionally, tire treads can fill with mud, which reduces their ability to grip the road surface, causing poor traction. Take care not to drive too fast or close to the edge of the road.

Be Safe on the Road!

It is important to use caution and safe driving techniques on ANY ROAD. However, driving on rural roads presents additional risks, so it pays to be extra careful.

At Pioneer, one of our core values is to provide a safe workplace for our employees, so this brochure has been prepared to help you be aware of potentially dangerous situations.

Without question, navigating rural roads can be dangerous. To ensure safety, reduce speed, be cautious of the effects of adverse weather, be extremely vigilant of road conditions, and watch for other drivers.

Contact your supervisor if you have any other questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Be safe!



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RURAL ROADS

fields
of green

RURAL ROADS

Since we often need to access rural roads in order to get to work, here are some things to consider.

Driving Safety



EXCESSIVE SPEED

The most common cause of accidents on rural roads, so it's important to drive at a safe, slow speed. There is less traction on gravel (as opposed to paved roads), and they are often more narrow. On rural roads, drivers will encounter many slow moving vehicles that aren't able to maneuver as quickly and easily as a car, so it's important to be aware of the surroundings.

DUST

Rural roads are often very dusty, due to dry, hot weather conditions. It's critical to maintain a safe distance between vehicles. Also, turn on headlights so visibility for other drivers is improved.

WASHBOARDING

Occurs when driving on a gravel surface that is bumpy (similar to a giant washboard). When vehicle tires lose a firm grip on the road and spin or skid, a slight amount of gravel is displaced. With repetition, the gravel will align into a washboard pattern. Hard acceleration and braking can lead to washboarding, so it's important to slow down to maintain control of a vehicle.

INTERSECTIONS

Most rural intersections — which include roads, farmstead driveways, and field entrances — are not signed, and therefore uncontrolled. Tall crops, trees, or slow moving vehicles may obscure some intersections, so it is important to slow down, stop, and scan the area before continuing through any of them.



RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Many rural railroad crossings don't have gates or flashing lights to alert drivers about an approaching train. Slow down and check the intersection before crossing railroad tracks.

ANIMALS

Be on the lookout for wild animals and/or livestock while driving. Be alert and expect unplanned stops.



TRAFFIC SIGNS

Pay attention to traffic signs, especially those that indicate a turn ahead. Speed should be reduced before entering into any curve, because the rear of a vehicle will tend to go in the direction that it was traveling before the driver entered the curve. Also, hills and dips in the road cause blind spots, so approach them with caution.

