

Mandatory Stand-up Talk:

**SAFETY
DEPENDS
ON ME!**

UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

Don't Fall for Falling Leaves



During the Fall, trees covered with colorful leaves paint the landscape in vibrant shades of red, yellow and orange.

Leaves are beautiful when they are on the trees but can become a safety hazard when they fall to the ground. Add water and you have treacherous walking conditions. The combination of wet roads and leaves results in a slippery surface which is similar to and as dangerous as black ice. Remaining alert is a top priority for anyone walking or driving on leaves.

If you are walking on wet leaves, exercise the same precautions as if you were walking on an icy surface:

1. Keep your weight evenly distributed on both feet and take small, shuffling steps.
2. Wear proper "SR/USA" approved footwear. Avoid wearing shoes with worn or smooth soles.
3. Use hand-rails where available.
4. Be mindful of fingering mail when walking across wet, leaf covered surfaces.
5. Protect your eyes if suddenly surrounded by windblown leaves.
6. Be aware of your surroundings. Piled leaves often obscure rocks and other debris.

If you lose your footing, try to relax. Tensing your body is more likely to cause injury. If you are holding an object, drop it and do not try to break your fall. Taking the impact of your falling body on an outstretched hand, elbow, or knee may result in broken bones.

When driving on wet, leaf covered roads:

1. Match your speed to current conditions. Treat wet, leaf covered roads as if they were ice covered and match speeds accordingly.
2. Smoothness counts. Avoid making sudden stops, starts or directional changes on wet, leaf covered roads.
3. In dry, windy conditions, slow down and stay alert. Wind driven leaves often obscure vision. If visibility is severely diminished by blowing leaves, slow down or choose a safe spot to stop until visibility improves.
4. Traction depends upon the contact that the tire has with the ground, so check your tires to make sure that you have good tread depth and proper inflation pressures. Good tread and proper inflation are a must.
5. In a skid? Take your foot off of the gas and brake while turning into the direction of the skid. Once the vehicle begins to respond, apply brakes gently (if you do not have anti-lock brakes). Apply brake firmly and allow the anti-lock braking system to work if your vehicle has one.
6. Be mindful of kids playing in piles of leaves in or near the street.

Always Remember: Safety Depends on Me!