



## DRIVING SAFELY

It suddenly came to me the other day, when I was driving (sliding) into work, that if I put my SAFED (Safe And Fuel Efficient Driving) into practise I would get there a lot safer and in one piece on the icy roads.

You can go on courses to learn how to drive the SAFED way, but for now to keep us all safer on the roads here are a few pointers for you.

**An easy one to start with.** When going through the gears you can skip a gear or two. For example I have a six speed Golf, when driving in a 30mph zone I would go 1st gear, 2nd and then 4th gear. You could always go 1st, 3rd, 4th. When driving faster I would then go from 4th to 6th. Have a go and see how it feels. I have definitely notice a much better fuel economy by missing out a gear or two.

**Secondly,** try and keep your revs low. This will happen when you do the above gear changes differently. Don't feel that you have to rev your engine higher to miss a gear. Sometimes it may feel and sound really sluggish but with practice it will become second nature.

**Thirdly** - the main point:- Forward Planning. Always look ahead and plan as much as you can your next action. For example when you are coming up to a junction don't accelerate all the way to the junction and then brake heavily. You can let off the gas, thereby saving fuel, and use less braking, which saves your brakes, well before stopping, and if you are worried about time we are only talking seconds difference. For motorway driving always look ahead and behind to ascertain when to overtake safely. By this I mean if you can see you are going to overtake a car check out who is coming up from behind and either slow down by easing off the accelerator NOT BRAKING and let them overtake first, or if there is no one coming carry on at the same speed.

All it takes is a bit of thought and you are saving fuel, brakes, clutch and gear box just to name a few. Which can't be bad on your pocket or the environment.

**Finally,** having the right tyres for the right season will also mean you will get a higher mileage from both your summer and winter tyres. We still have various sets of winter tyres in stock. Please call if you have any questions regarding this info-ad on 01788 542292.