If you assess the situation incorrectly, or if you fail to respect the instructions given, you risk:

- Finding yourself blocked for an unknown period, under difficult conditions.
- Blocking a main route completely if you lose control of the vehicle.
- Having an accident whose global cost (damage, delay, loss of goods, etc.) will far outweigh the cost of waiting.

In addition, if you fail to respect the traffic prohibitions, you risk:

- **Penal sanctions**: 135 euros fine plus immobilisation of the vehicle.
- **Committing your liability** and legal difficulties in case of accident resulting in damage or injury.

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**Centre Régional d’Information et de Coordination Routière de l’Ouest (CRICR Ouest)**

(West Regional Centre for Traffic Information and Coordination)

The CRICR provides information in particular on the traffic conditions related to the weather, traffic restrictions and disturbance.

**Round the clock traffic information, 7 days a week, on**

- infodirect 0826 022 022 (0.15€ per minute)
- minitel 3615 route

**Météo France**

Weather information map « Carte de vigilance » updated every day at 4 p.m. and 6 a.m. (more frequently if necessary) available via the web site. Follow-up bulletins updated regularly in case of orange or red level for a department.

- weather by department 0 892 68 02 + department N° (0.34€ per minute)
- road weather 3250 choice 5/roads (0.34€ per minute)
- minitel 3615 METEO (0.34€ per minute)
- internet www.meteofrance.com

**Radios Channels**

France Bleu Basse-Normandie : 102.6 FM
(reference radio)
107.7 on motorways operated under concession

**The Emergency Telephone Numbers**

15 SAMU (paramedic) - 17 Police - 18 fire brigade
112 European emergency number

Brochure downloadable from the DRE web site
www.basse-normandie.equipement.gouv.fr
heading « Observatoire Social des Transports » (transport social observatory).

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**Fully appreciate traffic restrictions on heavy goods vehicles during periods of bad weather**

**HGV drivers**

**Company managers**

**Loaders**

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**Practical Information**

November 2006
What data are used?

- The weather forecasts of Météo France (at least every 6 hours)
- The field readings taken by the patrol agents of the DDEs or DIRs, County Council (Conseil Général), motorway companies, before 5 a.m. (DIR : Interdépartemental road administrations with responsibility, or mandated responsibility, for the management and operation of main roads on behalf of the DDEs)

What are they used for?

- To prepare the information messages for users
- To prepare the traffic restriction decisions in crisis meetings

What are the potential traffic restrictions?

- Driving on the right hand lane only, on dual carriageways
- Traffic prohibitions
- Vehicle storage

Who issues the traffic restrictions?

- The Department Prefect for the national road network, in coordination with the Zone Prefect when the difficulties concern several departments. The route logic is in fact vital. The CRICR coordinates, under the authority of the Zone Prefect, the traffic management plans in periods of bad weather.
- The President of the County Council for the departmental road network.
- The transport organisation authorities (County Council and transport unions), when special prohibition measures are required for public passenger transport and in particular school buses.

In case of bad weather conditions, traffic restrictions are required. Finding a bypass route is always given priority.

However, traffic prohibition and vehicle storage measures are sometimes taken in sectors not affected by the bad weather.

In this case they are preventive measures.

The aim of storage or prohibition measures:

- Avoid a complete traffic jam.
- Carry out road works under optimum conditions, as quickly as possible.
- Avoid a heavy goods vehicle blocking the road and preventing snowploughs or emergency vehicles from passing.
- Allow drivers to wait, if possible near services (restaurant, toilets).
- Limit the risk of having to rescue people stranded on the road.

Obtain information before setting out on your journey

Respect the instructions and prohibition decisions issued by the authorities

Take a minimum amount of equipment with you, to ensure 12 hours autonomy: blanket, water, charged mobile phone, cash, non-perishable food

Do not overestimate your driving ability under difficult conditions

This brochure was produced for the Lower Normandy Observatoire Social des Transports. The observatory, coordinated by the Direction Régionale de l’Équipement (Regional transport administration) includes the professional carrier organisations, the employee representatives, the training centres for the sector and the Direction Régionale du Travail des Transports (Regional transport work administration).