

Test your brakes from time to time to make sure they are operating properly. This will also give you a feel for how much traction you have on a given surface.

Turning

Off-highway, the basic turning technique is to drive at low speed and gradually adjust the amount of steering to suit the surface.

You should have no problem making sharp turns at low speed on level ground. But never make an abrupt turn at higher speeds, on or off pavement. With a higher center of gravity, your vehicle can more easily tip or roll over.

Driving on Slopes

Before driving up or down a hill, stop and assess the situation. If you can't clearly see all road conditions (good traction, no bumps, holes or other obstacles, a safe way out, etc.) walk the slope before you drive on it. If you have any doubt about whether you can safely drive on the slope, *don't do it*. Find another route.

If you are driving up a hill and find that you cannot continue (because of the steepness, a large obstacle, etc.), *do not try to turn around*. Your vehicle could roll over. Slowly back down the hill, following the same route you took up the hill.

Avoiding Obstacles

Bumps, holes, rocks, and other obstacles can be hazardous. Debris in the road can damage your suspension or other components. Even small rocks can cut your tires.

More important, because your vehicle has a high center of gravity, driving over a large obstacle, or allowing a wheel to drop into a deep hole, can cause your vehicle to tip or roll over.

Drive slow enough to observe obstacles ahead and maneuver around them. If you can't avoid a serious obstacle, turn around and look for a better route.