



# COMMUTER ALERT

15-065

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2015  
**District:** 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BE WORK ZONE ALERT!**

## TIPS FOR DRIVING IN HIGH WIND CONDITIONS

**SAN BERNARDINO** – High wind events can cause extreme driving conditions for motorists. Advisories may be in effect for high profile vehicles while conditions on certain routes can also cause hazards to motorists. Below are some tips that will make your trip safer for you and those around you:

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition.
- Maintain a safe driving speed and turn on headlights, if needed, to account for potentially lower visibility created by blowing dust, sand and other debris such as tree branches.
- Be aware of and maintain safe distances from other vehicles near you, particularly RVs, campers, trucks, buses, or trailers in tow. These vehicles could swing out and hit your car in sudden wind gusts.
- Make steering corrections when driving from wind-protected areas to unprotected areas. The wind may suddenly move your car when traveling from a protected to unprotected area.
- Take extra care in a high-profile vehicle such as trucks, vans, SUVs, or when towing a trailer, as these are more prone to being pushed or flipped by high winds. Caltrans uses advisory messages on our overhead changeable message signs. Drivers of high profile vehicles must obey these wind warnings and prohibitions when in effect.
- If winds are severe enough to prevent safe driving, pull over into a safe parking area (the shoulder of a busy roadway is not safe) and stop, making sure you are away from trees, power lines or other tall objects that could fall onto your vehicle.
- When arriving at your destination, avoid parking near trees or downed power lines.
- Never drive over downed power lines. Even if they have been knocked over by the wind, high-voltage wires may still be alive and very dangerous. Avoid anything that may be touching downed lines, including vehicles or tree branches.
- Report downed lines to your local utility emergency center and to the police.
- “Know before you go!” Go to Caltrans’ “Quick Map” at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> or to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) website at <http://cad.chp.ca.gov/>. Listen to the radio or watch local news on television for road conditions before and during your trip.

To stay on top of road conditions in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, go to [www.caltrans8.info](http://www.caltrans8.info) and sign up for commuter alerts. View traffic conditions at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>.