



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

12-265

Date: Friday, November 9, 2012
District: 8 - Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
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Winter Driving Tips

Inland Empire – Winter weather is upon us again and it is time to think about a few things before you take a drive to mountain areas and higher elevations. Following are a few helpful tips that will make your trip a safe and enjoyable one.

- First – fill up your gas tank!
- Bring chains – even if it is not snowing. Mountain weather is unpredictable and changes without warning. Always be prepared!
- Bring water, food, warm clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and necessary medications.
- Bring a charged cell phone and your cell phone charger for your vehicle. Bring a flashlight or battery operated radio just in case.
- Make sure your tires are in good condition and your vehicle is running well.
- If you wish to install your own chains, use the chain control areas or turnouts close to chain control locations – **NEVER block the roadway** or put chains on next the road or shoulder.
- Use the Caltrans permitted chain installers at convenient turnout locations. They will have a yellow bib with an official Caltrans Encroachment Permit. **Do not** allow non-permitted chain installers to put chains on your vehicle – for your safety and others.
- Never play in the snow next to the roadway – it is dangerous for you, your kids, and other motorists. Don't allow sleds to slide onto the road.
- Don't have fires or barbeque along the highways or in the turnouts.
- Always park in a safe location or turnout. Watch for "no parking" signs - you don't want to get a ticket, get towed, or have an unfortunate accident.
- Make room for Caltrans equipment, CHP vehicles, and **all** emergency responders. Stay clear of snow plows!
- Take your trash with you (including diapers) – DON'T TRASH CALIFORNIA!
- Slow down, bring patience, and be courteous. Use turnouts if you are holding up traffic.
- **Never drink and drive...**

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CHAIN CONTROL REQUIREMENT LEVELS:

- R-1: Chains or snow tread tires required. Snow tires must have a tread depth of 6/32" with a "M & S" imprint on the tire's sidewall.
Chains required on all vehicles except four-wheel or all-wheel drives with snow tread tires
- R-2: on all four wheels. Four wheel drives must carry chains. If you have four-wheel drive—engage it. Use the "4-high" range only. Use "4-low" only if your vehicle becomes stuck.
- R-3: Chains required - ALL VEHICLES - no exceptions.

For chain control conditions Caltrans has implemented a user-friendly map on our website for your use at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/tmc/index.htm#>.

Use our Quick Map for traffic conditions and road work <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>.

For all other road conditions please use <http://www.ie511.org/> or call "511" from the Inland Empire before you travel.

Follow us on twitter for sig alerts and after hour information at www.twitter.com/caltrans8.

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