



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Region 1 *Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas
and Hood River Counties*

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WINTER STORM WARNING FOR CASCADES

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon State Police (OSP) advise motorists to expect heavy snowfall in the Cascades with accumulations of 18 to 30 inches possible by Thursday. **The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm watch from 7 a.m. Wednesday, March 8 through 6 p.m. Thursday, March 9**, for the north and central Oregon Cascades.

During winter weather conditions, state law requires motorists to have chains or traction tires in or on their vehicle when traveling over Oregon mountain passes. Drivers bound for mountain resorts or passes are reminded to park only in designated areas. **All illegally parked vehicles in snow zones will be towed at the owner's expense.** Illegally parked vehicles prohibit snow removal equipment from properly clearing roads and make travel hazardous for other drivers.

In very bad winter road conditions all vehicles may be required to use chains regardless of the type of vehicle or type of tire being used. In addition to carrying chains or traction tires, drivers need to be prepared for low visibility due to heavy snowfall. Vehicles need to be winter-ready with an emergency kit that includes food and water and have a full tank of gas before heading over mountain passes.

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Winter Driving Tips

For updated information on highway work and current travel information throughout Oregon, visit www.tripcheck.com or call the Oregon road report at 511 or 1-800-977-6368
Visit the ODOT News Media Center at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM

If you must drive in low-visibility conditions, here are some tips to remember:

- Slow down. Do not drive faster than your vision permits
- Increase following distance to ensure enough reaction time and stopping distance
- Turn on all your lights, including hazard lights, to give other vehicles the opportunity to better notice your vehicle. Use low-beam headlights and fog lights. Do not use high beams
- Use windshield wipers and the defroster, as needed, to maximize your ability to see
- Be ready for emergency stops by other vehicles
- Turn off your cruise control so that you are in control of your vehicle
- Use the right edge of the road or roadside reflectors as a guide
- Listen for traffic you can't see
- Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles, unless absolutely necessary
- Signal early and brake gently
- Watch for slow-moving or parked vehicles or snow plows
- If you cannot see, pull completely off the road, preferably at a rest area, truck stop or parking lot

For current road conditions, including road cameras and weather information, visit www.TripCheck.com or call 511. TripCheck also contains information on chain and traction tire requirements and other travel information.

For more tips about driving in all types of weather conditions, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winter.shtml>

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