



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

**Region 4** *Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Jefferson, Wheeler, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath and Lake Counties*

November 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information: Peter Murphy, Public Information Officer  
541-388-6224

## ODOT Winter Storm Preparation

The Oregon Department of Transportation warns motorists to be prepared for winter conditions

### Safety tips for driving in winter conditions

- Check Oregon's road conditions and weather forecasts at [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com) before you leave, or call 5-1-1 (available from most cell phone service providers) for valuable travel information, updated continuously.
- Choose main routes and be rested and alert.
- Make someone aware of your routes, and if plans change, let someone know. Check in when you've reached your destination.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Clear any snow, ice or frost from windows, lights, hood, heater and air inlet vents (don't forget mirrors and wipers).
- Do not drive with heater in recirculation mode; it can increase humidity.
- Drive with your lights and reduce your speed.

### Use these tips to prevent slips if there is ice or snow on the road

- Don't use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather.
- Position your hands on the steering wheel at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock, or lower.
- If you lose traction, gradually slow down — don't slam on the brakes!
- Steering, braking and accelerating smoothly are key to maximum vehicle control on slippery surfaces. Steer just enough to follow the path you intend (most people steer too much or too fast).
- Be ready to handle potentially dangerous situations by thinking "15 seconds" ahead about your options, such as controlling your speed, changing lanes or communicating with others on the road.
- Use extra caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways: ice forms first on these surfaces.
- Avoid driving through snowdrifts; they may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Slow down in advance of shaded areas (especially curves) where ice and snow are the last to melt.
- Carry chains or use traction tires.
- Chain up early.

### Watch for snowplows and sanding trucks

- Following a plow or sander too closely can be dangerous — give them (and yourself) room.
- Don't pass the plow or sander; be patient!
- Be aware that sometimes plows work side-by-side to clear the road faster.

#### Follow Oregon chain laws

- Look for signs indicating when chains or traction tires are required. When required, pull over to the right of the highway as far as possible or pull into a “chain up” area.
- Chains include link and cable chains and other devices that attach to the vehicle, wheel or outside of the tire are designed to increase traction in ice or snow.
- A traction tire is a studded tire or other tire that meets the tire industry’s definition as suitable for use in severe snow conditions, marked with the peaks/snowflake logo.
- Studded tires can only be used between Nov. 1 and April 1.
- Find out more about snow zones and chain requirements at [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com).

#### Be prepared by storing these supplies in your vehicle

- Tools: jack, lug wrench, shovel
- Chains or traction tires
- Flares
- Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Cell phone and car adaptor
- Rechargeable flashlight
- Extra food and water
- First aid kit
- Matches or lighter
- Battery jumper cables
- Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- Pocket knife
- Extra washer fluid

#### Know before you go!

- Before you go, visit [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com) or call the numbers below for the latest in road conditions, weather forecast, chain requirements and incident information:
- 5-1-1 (If available from your cell phone service provider)
- 1-800-977-6368
- 1-503-588-2941(if you are calling from out of state)

**##ODOT##**