



# TRAVEL ADVISORY

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## Prepare for blizzard conditions this weekend

*Freezing temperatures, high winds, rain and snow expected to hit western Oregon*

The Oregon Department of Transportation warns motorists to be prepared for extreme winter conditions expected to hit western Oregon this weekend, with blizzard conditions forecast for the mountains and very cold temperatures, heavy rain, strong winds, rain and snow hitting the coast and the Willamette valley.

ODOT maintenance crews are prepared to handle the winter conditions with additional shifts scheduled throughout the storm period. Our snowplows, sand spreaders and chemical de-icer trucks are ready to address highway conditions.

“A blizzard condition is very unusual and requires utmost caution,” warns Doug Tindall, ODOT Deputy Director for Highway. “Please be prepared to delay your trip through the mountains this weekend, because ODOT may need to close highways to protect public safety.”

Weather forecasts predict cold, icy morning conditions Saturday through at least Monday, with a potential for black ice from the Willamette Valley south to the Rogue Valley. ODOT asks motorists to use special care on bridges, on-ramps, off-ramps and transition ramps; they tend to ice up more quickly because they’re more exposed.

### 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; be rested and alert.
- ◆ Make someone aware of your routes, and if plans change, let that person know. Check in when you’ve reached your destination.
- ◆ Always wear your seat belt.
- ◆ Clear any snow, ice or frost from windows, lights, hood, heater and air inlet vents (and don’t forget mirrors and wipers).
- ◆ Do not drive with heater in recirculation mode; it can increase humidity.
- ◆ Drive with your lights on and reduce your speed.



**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.

"Though many of the tips seem like common sense, we see tragic crashes that could be prevented by taking simple measures such as slowing down in bad weather," said ODOT District Manager Mike Spaeth.

**Know before you go!**

Road Conditions and Cameras: [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com); 5-1-1

Winter Driving Tips: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml)

ODOT winter operations video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3ZimTZ2XSE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3ZimTZ2XSE)

ODOT: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/)



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