KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Before you go, visit 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

or **1-503-588-2941**

TripCheck
www.tripcheck.com

The Oregon Winter Driving Guide is a collaborative project of the Governor's Transportation/Tourism Task Force.

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AAA Oregon

737-3395 (9/09)

Stock no. 330419

THE OREGON WINTER DRIVING GUIDE

Oregon's beautiful scenery is a year-round source of enjoyment. Driving in Oregon's winters, however, can be challenging. Follow these recommendations so you arrive safely at your destination!

Be Prepared!

Use this handy checklist to make sure you're prepared every time you take a trip in Oregon's winter wonderland.

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

Drive Safely. *The Way to Go.*

TAKE YOUR TIME . . .

- Check Oregon's road conditions and weather forecasts at www.TripCheck.com before you leave, or call 5-1-1 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.
- Remember, cell phone coverage is not available in many remote areas.
- 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 on and reduce your speed.

USE THESE TIPS TO PREVENT SLIPS

Adjust your driving for the conditions; if there is ice or snow on the road, you must take extra care.

- 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.
- Chain up early.

TUNE UP YOUR VEHICLE

- Make sure your antifreeze is good to -25F; check and fill washer and other fluids and make sure hoses aren't loose or brittle.
- Keep wipers clean and in good condition.
- Make sure your heater and defroster are working.
- Make certain your battery is fully charged (also check battery age and make sure cables are not loose or corroded).
- Ensure your tires are in good condition and properly inflated.
- Carry chains or use traction tires.

WATCH OUT FOR PLOWS!

In Oregon's winters, you will encounter 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

Oregon's chain laws apply to all roads and highways.

- 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 that are designed to increase traction in ice or snow.
- A traction tire is a studded tire or a tire that meets the tire industry's definition as suitable for use in severe snow conditions, marked with .
- Studded tires can only be used between Nov. 1 and April 1.
- Under some conditions, four-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles may be exempt from the requirement to use chains.
- Find out more about chain requirements at www.TripCheck.com.