



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: October 14, 2009
District: 10 - Stockton
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

The first winter storm has hit the Valley and Ebbetts Pass and Sonora Pass are closed due to the change in weather conditions. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 10 advises motorists to try and prepare for upcoming storms. This last storm brought with it, high winds, heavy rains and snow in the higher elevations. It is best to stay off the roads during winter storms, but if you must go, out use caution, common sense, and be prepared.

Caltrans wants to get you where you are going safely. Winter weather and road conditions can change rapidly. Motorists should expect the worst conditions and be prepared. Have your vehicle winterized and carry an emergency kit in your car.

All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive or snow tires, should carry chains when traveling during snowy weather. If you don't have chains in your possession, you may not be allowed to proceed. When highway signs indicated that chains are required, you must stop and install chains or risk being cited and fined.

Motorists should check the road conditions frequently. For State operated highways this can be done in a number of ways: motorists can check the Caltrans website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/>, tune to the Caltrans Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), which Caltrans uses to broadcast road condition information on low frequency radio transmitters located along some mountain highways, check the California Highway Information Network (CHIN) by calling 1-800-GAS-ROAD (427-7623) or check the internet at www.dot.ca.gov/dist10, to get road conditions, weekly road reports, and press releases.

During winter storm conditions motorists should anticipate unexpected delays and closures. Caltrans strives to reduce the frequency and the length of unplanned closures on state highways. During major storms when traffic flow is heavy, Caltrans may meter traffic to east congestion.

Here are some winter driving tips that will assist you in making your winter driving experience safe and pleasant:





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- Allow enough time for your trip;
- Keep your fuel tank full;
- Slow down and use your seat belt;
- Don't panic;
- Remember black ice is nearly invisible;
- Be observant;
- Keep windows clear;
- Stay with your vehicle.

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Caltrans, we're here to get you there.

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