



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013

**District:** District 2 - Redding

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

**REDDING** – Temperatures are plummeting and the National Weather Service is calling for one to three inches of snow as low as the valley floor in Tehama and Shasta counties this week. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 is reminding motorists to be prepared for winter weather conditions on North State roadways. There are several things drivers can do to stay safe on the road:

#### BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Check your brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, heater, headlights, and exhaust system to make sure they are in good, working condition.
- Check your tire pressure when tires are cold. Insert a quarter upside down into the tire groove. If you can see above George Washington's head, it may be time to get new tires.
- Pack chains, a small ice scraper and shovel, a flashlight, warm blankets, water and non-perishable food items.
- Check road conditions. Caltrans District 2 has a number of useful resources on its website: [www.caltrans2.info](http://www.caltrans2.info) Motorists can use **QuickMaps**, **One Stop Shop** or even take a look at dozens of Caltrans traffic cams. These will help you track road closures and chain control areas when planning your trip. District 2 will also be updating its hotline with major highway closures. Just call **(530) 225-3452**.

## ON THE ROAD

- Slow down on wet pavement. According to AAA, with as little as 1/12 inch of water on the road, tires have to displace a gallon of water per second to keep the rubber meeting the road.
- Turn on your headlights when it's raining. This became a California law in 2005. Fines can be as much as \$150.
- Let permitted installers help you with chains:
  - ◇ Those permitted by Caltrans must display a sign advising drivers in advance of their fee.
  - ◇ Permitted installers must wear a vest with their vendor number on it.
  - ◇ Installers cannot sell or rent chains to drivers.
  - ◇ Installers must provide a receipt when asked for one.
  - ◇ Call Caltrans if any issues arise regarding chain installations.

The highways may be open when you leave home, but may close or have chain controls imposed as you are traveling to your destination. Caltrans will activate the Highway Advisory Radio system when major closures occur. When you see flashing beacons on advisory signs please tune to:

- Shasta, Tehama, Siskiyou, Lassen, Plumas and Trinity Counties: **1610 AM**
- Modoc County: **97.9 FM**
- Butte County(Butte 70/191): **1580 AM**

If you need more information on winter driving preparations, please call the District 2 Public Information Office at (530) 225-3426.

**NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news.htm>**

