



CALTRANS NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: December 17, 2010
District: District 2 - Redding
Contact: Denise Yergenson
Phone: (530) 225-3260

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOTORISTS SHOULD PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER

REDDING – The National Weather Service predicts storms should bring rains to the valleys and foothills, snow to the higher mountains and gusty winds starting today through Wednesday next week. Caltrans wants to remind motorists to be prepared for these upcoming storms. Information on winter driving, chain controls and access to traffic cameras is available on the internet at www.caltrans2.info. Caltrans suggests you visit the website prior to any winter trip for important information on driving conditions and tips on how to be prepared in the case of inclement weather.

It is best to stay off the roads during winter storms, but if you must go out use caution, common sense and be prepared.

Things to Remember

- Winterize your vehicle (check brakes, windshield wipers, antifreeze, tires).
- Always carry chains.
- Reduce speed and use your seatbelt.
- Do not use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather.
- Do not pass a vehicle plowing snow unless instructed.
- Be aware of rapidly changing conditions.
- Be prepared for road closures and long delays (bring flashlight, blanket, food, ice scraper, gloves, water, cell phone charger).
- If possible, stay off the road during winter storms.
- Studded snow tires are permitted in California from November 1 until April 30. Studded snow tires are not considered tire traction devices and may not be used in lieu of chains.

Truck Drivers

- Extra-Legal permitted loads are restricted during inclement weather.
- Follow instructions in chain control areas.
- Listen for Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) messages on 1610 AM.
- Remain in the slow lane, avoid passing other big rigs.

Click the following link to go to the Caltrans winter driving brochure online,
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/wntdriv.htm>.

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MEDIA RESOURCES

If you're reporting on current chain control restrictions, you can use the Chain Control map at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/chainup/allcntys.htm>. There is a date stamp in the bottom right corner to let you know when the map was last updated. During storms, Caltrans dispatch is open 24/7 and updates the chain map continually.

For an explanation of chain control requirement levels, go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/chainup/requirements.htm>. This will describe what R-1, R-2, etc. means.

There are two ways to check out the Caltrans District 2 traffic cameras. You can go to the district map at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/travelmap.htm> or you can see thumbnails of all the cameras if you want to scroll through pictures quickly at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/cctv/allcams.shtml>.

To use the California Highway Information Network (CHIN) to get information about a specific state highway, you can go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/roadinfo.htm>. This page also has District 2 roadwork bulletins, which are updated every Friday for the upcoming week.

District 2 Public Information Office has a page at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news.htm>. Here you will find a link to our Twitter account <http://twitter.com/CaltransD2>, as well as news releases and public service announcements.

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>.

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