



Because of the series of storms that are pounding the Inland region with rain and snow, local and state officials are urging motorists to be particularly careful while traveling.

Also, there are dozens of warming centers in Riverside County to help those in need who need a break from the cold temperatures. A list of centers can be found at www.rivcoph.org

Below are some helpful tips to keep you, your loved ones and everyone else safe as you venture to San Bernardino or Riverside County mountain resort locations. Courtesy of AAA and Caltrans.

- **BRING CHAINS FOR YOUR VEHICLE—even if it is NOT snowing!** The closure of some mountain routes in past weeks have been attributed to vehicles **without** chains that became disabled within chain control areas. This caused as many as 100 other motorists to become “stuck” for hours while Caltrans crews, CHP, and emergency responders worked to free the vehicles.
- **NEVER INSTALL CHAINS ON THE ROADWAY AND BLOCK TRAFFIC!** Use designated areas or turnouts for chain installation.
- Follow all commands from Caltrans crews, chain installers, law enforcement and emergency responders.
- Check the weather and road conditions before you get on the road – use Caltrans Quick Map for chain control and traffic conditions at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>.
- Check fluids, tires and brakes before you leave home.
- **FILL YOUR GAS TANK BEFORE YOU GO UP THE HILL.**
- Bring warm clothing, hats, gloves and footwear suited for snow/ice conditions. Bring blankets if possible.
- Charge your cell phone in advance and bring a backup charger.
- Bring cat litter to free your vehicle should it become disabled in ice or snow. If you become snowbound – stay in your vehicle! It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you.
- Make sure your exhaust pipe isn’t clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust could cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into your vehicle while the engine is running. Try to run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and conserve gasoline.
- **PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR ROADWORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS! Slow down and keep them safe.** Stay away from snow removal equipment and never try to pass them.
- **SLOW DOWN!** Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, and turning – nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement.

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to accelerate to regain traction and avoid skids. **Again: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.**
- Increase your following distance from three to four seconds to eight to ten seconds. This will provide more distance for you to stop.
- Know what kind of brakes you have on your vehicle. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS) and need to slow down quickly, press hard on the pedal-it's normal for the pedal to vibrate a bit when the ABS is activated.
- Don't come to a complete stop if it is not necessary. It takes longer to start moving again in the snow and regain traction.
- Don't power uphill on snow/ice-covered roads. This will cause your wheels to spin. Press on the gas enough to get your car moving and then when you reach a level area you can reduce your speed. Proceed as slowly as possible on downhill roads.
- Don't stop going up a hill – you lose traction.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can.

Etiquette for mountain visitors:

- **Do not snow-play on roadways or private property.** Go to designated snow play areas.
- **DON'T TRASH THE MOUNTAINS! TAKE YOUR TRASH WITH YOU!** Bring trash bags to dispose of your litter – keep it in your vehicle until you can dispose of it in a trash receptacle. The fine for litter is up to \$1,000.

Caltrans wants your trip to snow-filled mountain resort areas to be fun – **BUT SAFE!** Following these tips will make your trip more enjoyable and perhaps save a life.