



NEWS RELEASE

06-088

Today's Date: Friday, November 17, 2006
District: 1 - Eureka
Contact: Ann Marie Jones
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans To Host Winter Driving Safety Event at Bayshore Mall Parking Lot

Caltrans, in partnership with California Highway Patrol, Eureka Police Department, Six Rivers National Forest, Humboldt County Public Health, St. Joseph's Hospital, and AAA Automobile Insurance, is having a **Winter Driving Awareness Event** for media, shoppers and passersby on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 from 10:00am to approximately 1:00pm at the Bayshore Mall Parking lot. The purpose of the event is to remind motorists that winter weather is approaching and how to prepare. There will be representatives available to answer questions and provide information as well as handouts that contain important information and guidelines.

Caltrans offers the following tips for winterizing your car:

- Before heading for snow country make sure your brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, heater and exhaust system are in top condition.
- Check your antifreeze and be ready for colder temperatures. You may want to add special solvent to your windshield washer reservoir to prevent icing.
- Check your tires. Make sure they are properly inflated and tread is in good condition.
- Always carry chains. Make sure they are the proper size for your tires and are in working order. You might also want to take along a flashlight and chain repair links. Chains must be installed on the drive wheels. Make sure you know if your vehicle is a front or rear wheel drive.
- Other suggested items to carry in your car are an ice scraper, a broom for brushing snow off your car, a shovel to free your car if it's snowed in and sand or burlap for traction if your wheels should become mired in snow.
- It is a good idea to take along warm blankets, extra clothing, water and snacks. A lengthy delay will make you glad you have them.





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- Put an extra key in your pocket. A number of motorists have locked themselves out of their cars when putting on chains and during visits to ski areas.
- Slow down. A highway speed of 55 or 65 miles an hour is safe in dry weather, but an invitation for trouble on snow or ice. Snow and ice make stopping distances much longer, so keep your seat belt buckled and leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Bridge decks and shady spots can be icy when other areas are not. Remember to avoid sudden stops and quick direction changes.
- Be more observant. Visibility is often limited in winter by weather conditions. Slow down and watch for other vehicles and for snow equipment. Snow removal vehicles with flashing lights can be difficult to see in low visibility.
- When stalled, stay with your vehicle and try to conserve fuel while maintaining warmth. Be alert for possible exhaust or monoxide problems.
- Keep your gas tank full. It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a bad storm, or you may be caught in a traffic delay.
- Don't be in a hurry. Get an early start and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- The speed limit when chains are required is 25 or 30 miles per hour and will be posted along the highway.

Caltrans urges you to check road conditions often. For the most current road conditions on all California State Highway, please contact the Caltrans Highway Information Network (CHIN) at 1-800-427-7623 (inside California) or 916-445-7623 (outside California). You can also log on to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>.

Inquiries may be directed to Ann Marie Jones, Public Affairs Officer, at (707) 445-6444.

Remember...We're Here To Get You There!

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