



## TRAFFIC ALERT

**Date:** December 13, 2016 #16-367  
**District:** District 3 - Marysville, [www.dot.ca.gov/dist3](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3)  
Amarjeet S. Benipal, District Director  
**Contact:** Liza Whitmore, [liza.whitmore@dot.ca.gov](mailto:liza.whitmore@dot.ca.gov)  
**Phone:** (530) 634-7640; (530) 701-5209

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Caltrans Advises Motorists to Expect Winter Driving Conditions** *Winter Storm Watch and Flood Watch in Effect Thursday-Friday*

MARYSVILLE – Caltrans District 3 is alerting motorists to be prepared for winter driving conditions, including flooding potential, as a new series of winter storms arrive in Northern California.

The National Weather Service (NWS) expects the first storm to arrive Tuesday afternoon with occasional rain and snow in the mountains. Wednesday will bring very high winds to the area and the NWS has issued both a Winter Storm Watch and Flood Watch for Thursday and Friday, December 15-16. Severe cold is forecast for Friday and Saturday with single digit temperatures predicted for snow-covered areas.



These winter storms will result in winter driving conditions for much of Northern California. Chain controls on Interstate 80 over Donner Summit, on U.S. Highway 50 over Echo Summit and on other Sierra mountain roadways should be anticipated. Caltrans permitted and trained chain installers on Interstate 80 can be identified by a reflective sign with their bib number.

Severe weather may slow motorists, resulting in roadway congestion. Wet and slippery roadways reduce tire traction, especially at high vehicle speeds. Hydroplaning can result in loss of driver control. Motorists are encouraged to slow down and observe the following winter driving tips, which can also be found at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctravel/winter.html>:

### **WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE**

- Check your tire pressure and tread depth to minimize sliding and/or hydroplaning.

- Replace the wiper blades and fill the windshield wiper fluid reservoir; be sure to use a winter formula to help de-ice windshields.
- If traveling to higher elevations, carry tire chains that are the correct size for your tires, and practice installing the chains before needing to use them.
- Have a full tank of fuel before traveling.

### **CARRY A TRAVEL KIT**

- Have blankets, extra clothing, food and water, towels, a shovel, a flashlight, an ice scraper, a small bag of sand or kitty litter and road flares.
- Have a fully charged cell phone before leaving and carry a car charger.

### **DRIVE CAREFULLY**

- Reduce speeds during winter weather and allow for additional stopping time.
- Turn on headlights to see and be seen and turn off cruise control.
- Do not drive into areas where water covers the whole roadway and slow down when water is pooling on the roadway to avoid hydroplaning.
- Watch for snow removal equipment. Only pass snow removal vehicles when a safe, legal passing area is available and sight distance is good.
- Use extra caution on bridges, ramps, and shaded areas; they may freeze first.
- If your vehicle begins to skid, steer in the direction of the slide and slowly remove your foot from the accelerator.

### **CHECK CONDITIONS FREQUENTLY**

- Check out Caltrans' "QuickMap" for current road conditions and chain requirements at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>. A mobile version is also available.
- Motorists also can use the California Highway Information Network automated phone service by calling 1-800-427-ROAD (7623).
- Motorists can see real-time conditions before they hit the road by using our [map of traffic cameras](#) in the Sacramento Valley, up Interstate 80, U.S. Highway 50 and around the Tahoe Basin.
- Follow Caltrans District 3 on Twitter [@CaltransDist3](#) and [Facebook](#) to receive the latest information about current roadway conditions.
- For forecast information, visit the National Weather Service [website](#).

### **ANTICIPATE DELAYS AND CLOSURES**

- Understand that winter weather and road conditions can change rapidly and allow for extra travel time.
- Make sure you share the route you intend to take with friends or family.
- Exercise patience and respect for other motorists.

Caltrans crews will be working around the clock to keep the roadways open and clear. Motorists are urged to be "Be Work Zone Alert" and to "Slow for the Cone Zone."