

News Release from: Multnomah Co. Sheriff's Office INCLEMENT WEATHER DRIVING TIPS  
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Lieutenant Jose Martinez

Inclement weather driving: The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office would like to remind drivers that it is that time of year again when driving conditions can change suddenly and become hazardous. Listed below are a few tips that can help keep your holiday driving a pleasant and safe experience.

TAKE YOUR TIME:

Whether due to weather or backed up traffic, count on at least double the time to reach your destination as you would take in non-winter conditions. Take it nice, easy, slow, and anticipate well ahead of time when accelerating, braking, turning, or otherwise changing the direction or movement of your vehicle.

KEEP INFORMED:

Check the weather forecasts prior to leaving, and stay tuned to a station that has weather information if traveling any distance in winter conditions, especially if they are forecast to worsen as you go. Keep alert for signs that tell you to tune into a radio channel to get localized weather advisory information. Especially in the dark, if conditions worsen to the point where you are having trouble seeing or staying on the road, it may be advisable to find lodging or at the very least an area of safety like a rest stop or business parking lot for the evening and give it another go when conditions improve.

PLAN, AND LET SOMEONE KNOW:

Plan ahead, stick to your plan, and let somebody know what you are doing. Especially if traveling when winter conditions are forecast, stick to main highways and roads where possible. Finally, make sure you call your contact to let them know you've arrived safely. Just as important, before setting off make sure your contact knows what to do if they do not hear from you by your estimated time of arrival this is especially important when traveling in areas that can have spotty cell coverage.

Most importantly, HEED ALL WARNINGS. If a roadway is closed DO NOT attempt to travel on it regardless of how you are equipped or how experienced you are in driving in adverse conditions. Roadways are closed because travel on them has reached such a hazardous level that it is dangerous for even emergency responders to attempt. So stay safe, get where you are going and enjoy your journey.

SOME WINTER EXTRAS

As a reminder, like bundling up in added layers of clothing, here are a few items to add to your vehicle's emergency supplies for winter travel:

- Tire chains that fit
- Snow shovel (full sized or collapsible)
- Airtight container of deicer (plastic coffee can works well)

- Gloves and spare gloves or mittens
- Small tarp or closed foam pad (to lie down on the snow without getting too wet)
- Blankets
- Water
- Emergency food (don't snack on it as you drive)
- Flashlights with fresh batteries
- Cell phone car charger. Keep your cell phone plugged in unless it's an emergency