



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Region 1 *Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas
and Hood River Counties*

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EXPECT EXTREME WINTER CONDITIONS ON MOUNTAIN PASSES

*National Weather Service issues blizzard warning for northern and central Oregon
Cascades*

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon State Police (OSP) advise motorists to expect severe conditions when traveling over the mountain passes through the end of the week. **The National Weather Service has issued a Blizzard Warning for the Central and Northern Oregon Cascades through 4:00 a.m., Thursday.** The Blizzard Warning is expected to be replaced with a Winter Storm Warning or Heavy Snow Warning early Thursday morning.

Snow accumulations of 15–28 inches are likely by Thursday morning in the Central and Northern Oregon Cascades. Additionally, wind speeds of 25-35 miles per hour are expected at the passes with gusts nearing 70 miles per hour at the ridges.

According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office, “These strong winds will create blizzard conditions with visibility falling below one-quarter mile and blowing snow creating white-out conditions.” To learn more about this weather forecast please visit:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pgr/>

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During this Blizzard Warning, ODOT recommends motorists do not travel over the Central and Northern Oregon Cascades. Those choosing to travel through this area are advised to carry a winter survival kit and proper traction devices, and if stranded, to stay with their vehicle.

In very bad winter road conditions, all vehicles may be required to use chains regardless of the type of vehicle or type of tire being used. In addition to carrying chains or traction tires, drivers need to be prepared for low visibility due to heavy snowfall. Vehicles need to be winter-ready with an emergency kit that includes food and water and have a full tank of gas before heading over mountain passes.

Mt. Hood Resorts

Travelers bound for Timberline, Mt. Hood Meadows or Ski Bowl must check the resort website for updates on their schedule of operations and for current conditions:

www.timberlinelodge.com or call 503-622-7979

www.skihood.com or call 503-337-2222

www.skibowl.com or call 503-222-2695

Drivers bound for mountain resorts or passes are reminded to park only in designated areas.

All illegally parked vehicles in snow zones will be towed at the owner's expense.

Illegally parked vehicles prohibit snow removal equipment from properly clearing roads and make travel hazardous for other drivers.

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Winter Driving Tips

If you must drive in low-visibility conditions, here are some tips to remember:

- Slow down. Do not drive faster than your vision permits
- Increase following distance to ensure enough reaction time and stopping distance
- Turn on all your lights, including hazard lights, to give other vehicles the opportunity to better notice your vehicle. Use low-beam headlights and fog lights. Do not use high beams
- Use windshield wipers and the defroster, as needed, to maximize your ability to see
- Be ready for emergency stops by other vehicles
- Turn off your cruise control so that you are in control of your vehicle
- Use the right edge of the road or roadside reflectors as a guide
- Listen for traffic you can't see
- Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles, unless absolutely necessary
- Signal early and brake gently
- Watch for slow-moving or parked vehicles or snow plows
- If you cannot see, pull completely off the road, preferably at a rest area, truck stop or parking lot

For current road conditions, including road cameras and weather information, visit www.TripCheck.com or call 511. TripCheck also contains information on chain and traction tire requirements and other travel information.

For more tips about driving in all types of weather conditions, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winter.shtml>

Editors: To view the ODOT camera on Mt. Hood, please click on this link: <http://www.tripcheck.com/Pages/CCview.asp?Num=2&cam1=624&cam2=742>

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