

Winter Driving Safety Reminders #1

OHBA Safety Pages


If you do much winter driving in Oregon, you've probably seen the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) SNOW ZONE signs that tell you the current requirements for chains or traction tires. But do you know what they mean? Here are some reminders.

1. You must have chains or traction tires in or on your vehicle; they must be the right size for your vehicle, and of sufficient number to comply with ODOT's chain requirements.
2. You must use chains if your vehicle is towing or rated more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW). Chains must also be used on a trailer or vehicle being towed if it has a brake that operates while in tow.
3. You must use chains if your vehicle is towing or weighs over 10,000 pounds GVW. If your vehicle weighs 10,000 pounds GVW or less and is not towing you must use chains or traction tires. Chains must also be used on a trailer or vehicle being towed if it has a brake that operates while in tow.



Drivers who disobey SNOW ZONE signs are subject to a class C traffic infraction.

During severe weather, ODOT may require all vehicles to use chains. This is known as a conditional road closure. Chains include any device that attaches to the wheel, vehicle, or outside of the tire, that is designed to increase traction on ice and snow.

Traction tires are studded tires or other tires that are suitable for use in severe snow conditions. These tires are marked with a mountain/snowflake emblem on the sidewall like this: 



Studs must be made of a rigid material that wears at the same rate as the tire tread and must extend at least 0.04 inch but not more than 0.06 inch beyond the tread surface. Studded tires are legal for use in Oregon from Nov. 1 to April 1. For information on tires that are suitable for use in severe snow conditions, contact your tire dealer. A four-wheel or all-wheel drive passenger vehicle is exempt from ODOT's chain requirements if all of the following are true:

- a. It has an unloaded weight of 6,500 pounds or less.
- b. It is operated to provide power to both the front and rear wheels.
- c. It is carrying chains.
- d. It has mud-and-snow, all-weather radial, or traction tires on all of its wheels.
- e. It is not towing another vehicle.
- f. It is not being operated in a manner or under conditions that cause the vehicle to lose traction.

For more information, click on "Trip Check" on the ODOT Web site: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

SAFETY PAGE MEETING GUIDE

Topic: Winter Driving Safety Reminders - #1

Employer: _____ Project: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: _____

Supervisor: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)