Winter driving
Best practices

Safe driving points
• Watch for limited visibility with fog.
• Allow eight to 12 seconds of following distance.
• Look a quarter-mile ahead.
• Stay in right lane.
• Don’t travel on the shoulder.
• Control your speed.
• Watch for iced bridges.

Do’s and don’ts
• Do use all brakes in combination.
• Don’t use exhaust brake.
• Don’t use trailer hand brake.
• Do use proper gears going downhill.
• Do drive slowly with chains on dry pavement.

Putting on your chains
• Pick a safe pull-out area.
• Use three-point dismount.
• Use proper PPE.
• Warm up and stretch muscles.
• Think about which way to roll.
• Keep chain attachments clear.
• Mark tire and move 90 degrees.
• Connect each rail.
• Tighten cam-locks.
• Roll 15 feet forward, then retighten.
• Retighten in a safe area.
• Install bungees to help keep snug.

Driving with chains
• Don’t exceed 35 mph.
• Be careful on dry pavement.
• Don’t get over-confident.
• Leave window cracked open.
• Use eight- to 12-second following distance rule.
• Practice speed management.

Removing your chains
• Find a safe spot for removal.
• Use your PPE gear.
• Take off the right side first.
• Roll off tail, not clamps.
• Inspect for broken links.
• Hang properly for next time.

PPE Personal protective equipment checklist
Head lamp
Shovel
Reflective vest
Food and water
Stocking cap
Coveralls
Rubber gloves
Eye protection
Ear protection
Foot protection

Pre-season equipment checklist
Chains in good repair
• Cross links in good condition
• Hooks not damaged
Chains are organized on the truck for easy use

Pre-trip checklist
Check with dispatch.
Know your routing.
Know chain-up areas.
Check weather and road conditions.
Know fuel stops.
Check anti-freeze.
Winterized windshield fluid.

Signs that chains are needed
• When it’s legally required
• Snow on oncoming vehicles
• CB traffic
• Changing weather and road conditions
• Having a safe chain-up location
• State police are stopping drivers

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