

Winter driving

Best practices

Personal protective equipment (PPE) checklist

- Head lamp
- Shovel
- Reflective vest
- Food and water
- Stocking cap
- Coveralls
- Rubber gloves
- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Foot protection

Preseason equipment checklist

- Chains in good repair
 - Cross links in good condition
 - Hooks not damaged
- Chains are organized on the truck for easy use.

Pretrip checklist

- Check with dispatch.
- Know your route.
- Know chain-up areas.
- Check weather and road conditions.
- Know fuel stops.
- Check anti-freeze.
- Use winterized windshield fluid.

Safe driving points

- Watch for limited visibility with fog.
- Allow 8 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.

Dos 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.

Signs that chains are needed

- When it's legally required
- Snow on oncoming vehicles
- Alert received over CB
- Changing weather and road conditions
- Seeing safe chain-up locations.
- State police are stopping drivers.

Putting on your chains

- Pick a safe pullout area.
- Use three-point dismount.
- Use proper PPE.
- Warm up muscles.
- Decide which way to roll safely.
- 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.
- Use bungees to keep chains snug.

Driving with chains

- Don't drive faster than 35 mph.
- Leave window cracked open to listen for unexpected noises.
- Practice speed management.

Removing your chains

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

