

## Winter Travel to Camp

Before beginning a trip to camp, please review the following suggestions offered by Cal Trans and the California Highway Patrol to help promote safe winter travel:

- ❖ **When planning a trip** – Before you leave you should know where you are going. Check on the road conditions. Plan your route. Make sure your car is winterized. Buy or rent the correct sized chains to fit your vehicle. Check antifreeze for colder temperatures, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster heater and exhaust system. Make sure your tires have good tread for added traction on icy roads.
- ❖ **Emergency items** – Consider carrying the following items in your vehicle: flashlight with good batteries, deicer or ice scraper, gloves, an old jacket (should you need to be on the ground installing chains), a plastic garbage bag to kneel on, a small broom to brush snow from your car, a shovel, sand or kitty litter for traction, warm blanket, thermos with hot beverage and a few candy or snackbars.
- ❖ **Driving tips** – Be especially observant of road conditions. Watch out for snow removal equipment, and never attempt to pass snowplows in the unplowed lanes. Safe speeds on dry roads can be deadly on icy and snowy roads. Adjust your speed limit to match conditions. Observe speed limits. Chain control speed limit is 25 mph except where posted. Highway 38 from Angelus Oaks to camp can be very icy. Much of the highway is shaded in the late afternoon, so ice can form on the road before nightfall. Allow plenty of drive time. Keep your gas tank full in case you experience delays or need to make unexpected detours. When stopping on winter roads, never apply brakes suddenly. Pump them gently to avoid locking the wheels. Use a lower gear if possible to slow down. Leave plenty of stopping room between you and the car in front of you. Always make sure everyone in the car has their seat belt buckled.
- ❖ **Chains are a fact of life** – You must stop and put on chains when highway signs indicate that chains are required. There is about a mile between the “Chains Required” sign and the check point where you will be required to stop to install your chains. Failure to install the chains is a citable offense. Conversely, when you are removing your chains, drive beyond the “End of Chain Control” sign to an appropriate pull-off area. Try to install chains on a flat or level surface.

If you use the services of a chain installer, make sure you get a receipt and then write the installer’s badge number on it. Chain installers are independent business people and are not employed by Cal Trans. They set their own rates, which generally run between \$20 and \$25 per vehicle. Chain installers are not allowed to sell or rent chains, so be prepared with chains prior to driving up into the mountains. Many stores sell chains (Pep Boys, Wal-Mart, Auto Zone, etc.) It is a good idea to practice installing your chains before leaving home.

**Remember to put chains on front tires for front-wheel drive vehicles, rear tires for rear-wheel drive vehicles.**

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE CAMP’S DRIVEWAY WITHOUT CHAINS IF THE “CHAINS REQUIRED” SIGN IS POSTED AT THE ENTRANCE INTO CAMP.** *Only four-wheel drive vehicles can make it into camp without chains.* **Do not install chains in the camp’s driveway. Please do not block traffic.**

- ❖ **Chain Requirement Code – R2:** Chains required on all vehicles except four-wheel drive vehicles. All two-wheel drive vehicles must install chains. Four-wheel drive vehicles with mud-and-snow tires may proceed as long as they are carrying chains. **R3:** Chains required on ALL vehicles. No exceptions. This is a rare occurrence in the San Bernardino Mountains, come prepared! **CARRY CHAINS! CARRY CHAIN TENSIONERS!**
- ❖ For current road conditions, call 800-427-7623 or log-on to [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/)
- ❖ Camp telephone numbers: Office: 909-794-2928 Lodge: 909-794-8712 Camp Director: 909-435-6298
- ❖ Camp Director’s email address: [uucamp@aol.com](mailto:uucamp@aol.com) Camp website: [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)