

# STORM SEASON SAFETY



## STAY SAFE ON THE ROAD

Hey Californians! As cooler months bring new, interrelated challenges to our state, like floods, high winds and deep snow, Listos California is taking action to protect our communities.

While the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and first responders across our state prepare for this climate-driven extreme weather, there are a few simple steps YOU can take today to keep yourself, your loved ones and neighbors safe while on the road.



### STAY INFORMED BEFORE A STORM

- Sign up for local emergency alerts at [ListosCalifornia.org/Alerts](https://ListosCalifornia.org/Alerts).
- Stay tuned to local radio, TV and official social media for weather updates.
- Check the Caltrans QuickMap at [QuickMap.dot.ca.gov](https://QuickMap.dot.ca.gov), the Caltrans Mobile QuickMap app or call **1-800-427-ROAD** for real-time road information.



### PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR A STORM

- In case you get stranded, put a "car emergency kit" in your vehicle that includes:
  - Jumper cables
  - Blankets, towels and extra clothing
  - Flares or reflective triangles
  - Water and snacks
  - Ice scraper
  - Flashlight with extra batteries
  - Car cell phone charger
  - Cat litter or sand to aid with traction should your vehicle get stuck
- Keep your car battery charged and your gas tank as full as possible in case of evacuations, unexpected detours or power outages. A full gas tank may also keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Check the air pressure in your tires and make sure your tires have enough tread. Add any chains or studs required in your area.
- Have a mechanic check your battery, oil, heater and defroster, antifreeze, wiper fluids, wiper blades, lights, brakes and exhaust system.



### DRIVE SAFELY IN A RAINSTORM

- Keep your headlights on. It makes driving safer for everyone on the road.
- Keep your car radio on a local or regional news station, and keep an eye out for smartphone alerts about road closures and hazards.
- Slow down and allow extra time to reach your destination. Snow and ice make stopping distances much longer, so leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead.





# STAY SAFE ON THE ROAD



## DRIVE SAFELY IN A RAINSTORM

- If it becomes hard to control your car, safely pull over, turn on emergency hazard lights, stop the car and set the parking brake.
- Allow extra time to reach your destination because of wet or icy roads, flooding, and possible gusty winds causing downed tree branches and power outages.
- If a power line falls on your car, you are at risk of electrical shock. Stay inside until trained personnel can remove the wire.
- If you're driving when a flood warning is issued or flooding is already occurring, move to higher ground immediately, and avoid stopping near streams, rivers or creeks.
- Never drive around a safety barrier of any kind or through flooded areas.
- As little as 6 inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control. Just 12 inches of water can sweep most cars away and 2 feet of rushing water can carry away any vehicle – cars, SUVs and trucks. Do not drive through floodwater. Nearly half of all flood deaths occur in vehicles. It's safer to turn around and find another route.
- If you exit your car during flooding, you can be swept away trying to stand in as little as 6 inches of water.



## DRIVE SAFELY DURING AN EVACUATION

- Do not speed in evacuation areas. Obey the posted speed limits.
- Stay alert. Visibility may be limited. Expect the unexpected.
- Watch for emergency workers and other vehicles. Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.
- Allow plenty of space between you and the car in front of you.
- Give emergency crews room to work. Stay at least 4 car lengths back from emergency vehicles and other equipment.



## DRIVE SAFELY ON ICE OR DURING DEEP SNOW

- During colder months, you may encounter traction chain controls on mountain highways and roads. Keep a set of chains in your vehicle if you think you might be driving when they are required.
- When chain controls are in place, roadside signs will tell you who needs them.
- Wait until you can pull completely off the road to the right before installing chains. Don't stop in a traffic lane where you will endanger yourself and others. Pull over to remove chains only after you safely clear the control areas.



## STAY SAFE AFTER STORMS

- Continue to monitor official channels for information about road detours and driving conditions.
- Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic away from roads that may be blocked because of downed power lines or trees blocked or closed due to collapsed pavement or debris.

