



CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25-05

January 31, 2025

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CHP URGES SAFE DRIVING AHEAD OF MAJOR RAINSTORM

SACRAMENTO—A significant rainstorm is expected to impact Central and Northern California beginning Friday, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) urges all motorists to exercise extreme caution and prepare for hazardous driving conditions. Wet roads, reduced visibility and potential hazards such as downed power lines, flooding and snow can create dangerous situations.

“As major winter storms approach Northern California, our top priority is ensuring everyone's safety,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “We urge everyone to stay informed, prepare, and avoid unnecessary travel in hazardous conditions. Our officers are ready to respond, but your caution and preparedness can make all the difference.”

Slow Down and Stay Alert

Rain-slicked roads reduce traction, increasing the risk of hydroplaning. The CHP reminds drivers to reduce speed, increase following distances, and avoid sudden stops or sharp turns. Allow extra time to reach your destination safely.

Avoid Unnecessary Travel

If possible, stay off the roads during the heaviest rainfall. Flash flooding, rockslides, and fallen trees can make travel treacherous. If you must drive, remain vigilant and watch for emergency crews responding to incidents.

Prepare Your Vehicle for Wet Weather

Before traveling, ensure your vehicle is ready for inclement weather:

- **Check windshield wipers** – Replace worn wiper blades to maintain visibility.
- **Turn on headlights** – California law requires headlights to be on when wipers are used.
- **Inspect tires** – Proper tread depth and inflation are critical for maintaining control on wet roads.
- **Ensure brakes are in good condition** – Wet roads can increase stopping distances.
- **Have tire chains available** – If traveling over mountain passes or anywhere you may encounter snow, be sure to have tire chains, tire chain tighteners, warm clothes and gloves.

Stay Vigilant for Hazards

Storms can bring unexpected dangers, including:

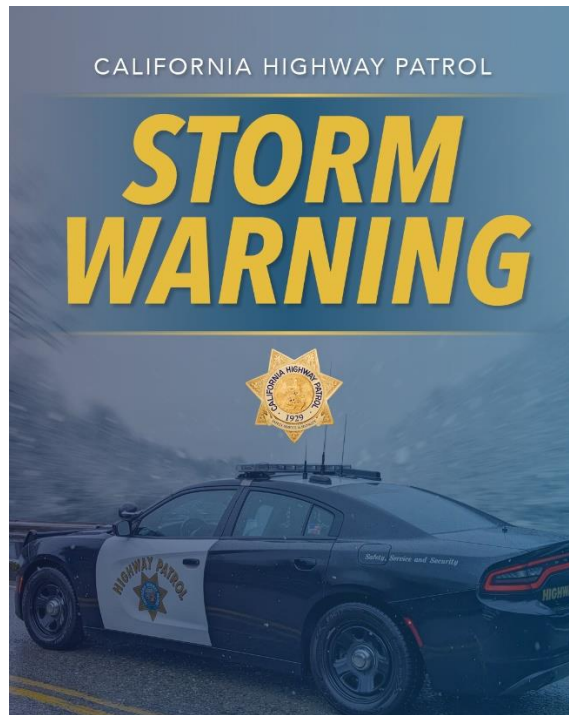
- **Downed power lines** – Never approach or drive over them; call 911 immediately.
- **Falling trees and debris** – Be aware of sudden obstacles in the roadway.
- **Mud and rockslides** – Use caution in mountainous and hillside areas prone to slides.

The CHP encourages everyone to take these precautions seriously to protect themselves, their loved ones, and others on the road. Planning ahead and practicing safe driving can make all the difference.

For the latest road conditions, visit the [Caltrans QuickMap](#) or call **1-800-427-7623**. In case of an emergency, dial **9-1-1**.

Go to ready.ca.gov for tips on how to prepare for the incoming storm.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.



(Image courtesy of CHP)

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