

Public Works

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Winter Driving Can Be Dangerous

During the winter season, particularly when snow is forecasted, it is important to recognize and prepare for driving in adverse weather conditions. The ability to control a vehicle is greatly reduced. As a reminder to the driving public, Caltrans offers the following advice:

Winter driving on roads and highways in the snowcapped mountains of California can be a pleasant adventure or it can be frustrating, tiring and sometimes even hazardous. The California Department of Transportation provides the following information to help make your mountain driving safe and pleasant.

Before Heading for Snow Country:

- Make sure your brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, heater and exhaust system are in top condition.
- Check your antifreeze and be ready for colder temperatures. You may want to add special solvent to your windshield washer reservoir to prevent ice from forming.
- Check your tires. Make sure they are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition. Always carry chains. Make sure they are the proper size for your tires and are in working order. You might want to take along a flashlight and chain repair links. Chains must be installed on the drive wheels. Make sure you know if your vehicle is front or rear wheel drive.
- Other suggested items to carry in your car are an ice scraper or commercial de-icer, a broom for brushing snow off your car, a shovel to free you car if it is "snowed in", sand or burlap for traction if your wheels should become mired in snow and an old towel to clean your hands.
- It is also a good idea to take along water, food, warm blankets and extra clothing. A lengthy delay will make you glad you have them.
- Weather conditions may warrant detouring traffic from the main roadway. It is strongly suggested that drivers always keep an updated map containing the areas of travel.
- If you have a cellular telephone, pre-load the Caltrans Highway Information Network (CHIN) phone numbers for convenient, updated road conditions.

CITY OF RIDGECREST

Dennis Speer

Public Works Director

Joe Pollock

City Engineer

- Put an extra car key in you pocket. A number of motorists have locked themselves out of their cars when putting on chains and at ski areas.



Driving Tips:

- Allow enough time. Trips to the mountains can take longer during winter than other times of the year, especially if you encounter storm conditions or icy roads. Get an early start and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Keep your gas tank full. It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a bad storm or you may be caught in a traffic delay.
- Keep windshield and windows clear. You may want to stop at a safe turnout to use a snow brush or scraper. Use the car defroster and a clean cloth to keep the windows free of fog.
- Slow down. A highway speed of 65 miles per hour may be safe in dry weather, but an invitation for trouble on snow and ice. Snow and ice make stopping distances much longer, so keep your seat belt buckled and leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Bridge decks and shady spots can be icy when other areas are not. Remember to avoid sudden stops and quick direction changes.
- Be more observant. Visibility is often limited in winter by weather conditions. Slow down and watch for other vehicles that have flashing lights, visibility may be so restricted during a storm that it is difficult to see the slow moving equipment.
- When stalled, stay with your vehicle and try to conserve fuel while maintaining warmth. Be alert to any possible exhaust or monoxide problems.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Waste Water Headwork's and Digester Cleaning project is complete.

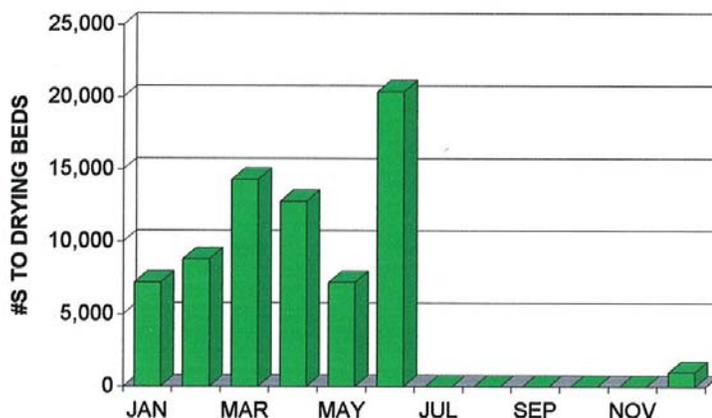
Private Sector Projects

The demand for inspection and plan checking is still increasing primarily in the commercial and residential sectors. There are currently about 38 new residential subdivisions being processed with a total of more than 3200 new lots. In addition to these there are about 1500 lots in the Ridgcrest Heights area that are vacant and buildable.

Street Projects

The construction of Mahan, Reeves and Graaf projects are complete but some minor cleanup remains. Bids were opened on the Upjohn, Wilson, Church (all from Sunset to Norma) and Sunset from Upjohn to Wilson projects and the bids are being reviewed by CDBG in Bakersfield.

WW PLANT SLUDGE PRODUCTION 2006



WASTEWATER REPORT

The City of Ridgcrest WWTF operated within design and compliance directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56. The treatment facility operated with no discharge violations.

The department inspected and passed eight new connections to the sanitary sewer system.

The reclamation department reclaimed .9 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.

The department hydro flushed 3,500 ft. of main line collection system as preventative maintenance.