

Winter Driving Information

2007-2008

As we head into winter typically many questions arise relating to our vehicles. The following "FAQ" sheet is intended to address many frequently asked questions.

❖ VEHICLES

Each pool offers a variety of daily rental vehicles to include: sedans, SUV's, 7 passenger mini-vans and 12 passenger full size vans. The majority of these are front-wheel or all-wheel drive. Both provide superior handling to those that are rear-wheel drive.

Sedans: *All sedans are front wheel drive and nearly all are equipped with traction control. This device helps prevent loss of grip so your tires will have traction to accelerate, turn and brake. This greatly enhances drivability in rain, snow and ice. (Current models include Chevy Impala, Ford Taurus, Toyota Prius and Honda Civic, *current model year Civics are not equipped with traction control).

SUV: Currently our daily rental SUV's are All-Wheel Drive (AWD). This means there is no transfer case to manually shift. They are in four-wheel drive at all times. (Current model: Jeep Grand Cherokee).

7 pass mini-van: These front wheel drive vehicles feature Electronic Stability Program (ESP) with all-speed traction control and brake assist. (Current Model: Dodge Grand Caravan).

12 pass van: These are full size, one ton, rear wheel drive vans. (Current models: Chevrolet Express and Ford Econoline Wagon). The Ford Econoline features AdvanceTrac with RSC (Roll Stability Control).

Pickups and cargo vans: We have a variety pickups and cargo vans in both rear wheel and four wheel drive. Please contact a motor pool directly for availability. The Chevrolet Express features StabiliTrak Stability Enhancement System.

❖ TIRES

Nearly all daily rental vehicles are "new" or current model year. Therefore, the majority of these are equipped with tires installed by the manufacturer. Although the brand of tire varies all have either an "all season" or "mud & snow" (M&S) type designation. The tread pattern on these is a "rib" type. Basically this means they are straight and deep to provide for better wear and longer life. They do not have the aggressive tread of a true traction tire but perform extremely well in average winter driving conditions here in Oregon.

❖ TRACTION DEVICES

Typically what we see on Oregon passes is a sign reading: "SNOW ZONE" followed by: "Carry chains or traction tires".

Although many of our vehicles do not have traction tires, ALL vehicles are equipped with tire chains. To receive training in the proper installation of chains contact any of our three motor pools. Failure to properly install chains may result in body damage to the vehicle.

In limited numbers, and during the winter months, we offer sedans equipped with "stud less" studded tires such as the Toyo Observe. These meet the requirements of a "traction tire" as defined by ODOT.

Our four wheel and/or all wheel drive vehicles are considered traction devices in themselves. Although they also have chains the requirement to "carry chains or traction tires" is excused. In the case of a "conditional road closure" ALL vehicles are required to install chains.

For detailed information go to <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/> and click on "Tripcheck", see "Winter Travel."

❖ MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

Ice scrapers are available upon request. They are no longer placed in the glove box due to the vast numbers that disappear. In addition, please do not use the Voyager card or any other foreign object to scrape ice.

All vehicles are equipped with a first aid kit. We no longer provide fire extinguishers and/or road flares as proper training in their use is required.