



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL W. DYER
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Wet Weather Driving Tips -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. November 30, 2014 – The unsettled weather expected across southwest California Friday afternoon through Saturday rain will impact travel across the region. Since this will be the first widespread rain event in quite some time, roads will be extra slick due to months of oil buildup on paved surfaces. In addition, people planning to travel into the mountains should be prepared for winter weather driving conditions over the higher elevations.

In anticipation of the approaching inclement weather, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department offers these tips that will keep you and your passengers safe while driving on wet roads:

- **Routinely check your tires.** Check the tires tread depth, and for proper inflation.
- **Slow down.** As rain falls, it mixes with grime and oil on the road creating slick conditions.
- **Know how to recover from a skid.** Remember not to slam on the brakes. Apply firm, steady pressure to the brakes and steer the car in the direction of the skid.
- **Keep your distance from the car ahead.** It takes about three times longer to break on wet roads than on dry roads.
- **Turn your headlights on.** Not only do they help you see the road, but they'll help other drivers see you.
- **First rains make the road very slippery.** First rains make the roads the most difficult to drive on, as the mud and oil combines with the water and forms a rather slippery layer.
- **Dry your brakes after driving through standing water.** If you have driven through standing water, apply the brakes lightly for a short time to dry them.
- **Make sure that your wipers are in good condition and functioning properly.** California law requires that if you have your wipers on, your vehicles headlights must also be on.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department urges motorists to use extra caution while driving in this projected first rain of the season. Taking these simple tips into account can save your life.

Contact Information:

Captain David Sadecki

Information Officer

Office 805.681-5531

Cell 805.689-0599

News Line 805.681-5546

Email david.sadecki@sbcfire.com

Twitter @SBCFireInfo

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