Traction Device/Tire Chain Requirements

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Central Wasatch Commission Meeting
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Cottonwood Canyons – Today’s Outline

- Discuss R920-6 updates
- Identify current challenges
- Discuss possible solutions
Updating Administrative Rule R920-6

- Improve operations
- Reduce crashes
- Reduce avalanche exposure
Changes to Administrative Rule R920-6


- M+S vs 3PMSF tires
- Class I roadway segment – semi trucks
- Class II roadway segment – all vehicles
- Event-specific enforcement instead of seasonal chain requirements
Enforcement: Chain-up Areas

- Small area in Little Cottonwood
- No area on uphill side of Big Cottonwood
- Lack of familiarity with chains (both rules and equipment)
- Don’t have chains in rental cars
Enforcement and Outreach: Tires and Drivetrain

- Elimination of safety inspection
- Difficult to identify tire rating
- 2WD vs 4WD rental cars
Enforcement and Outreach: Public Awareness

- Out of state visitors
- Rental cars and hotels
- Consistency of messaging
- Multi-agency coordination
- Warn travelers in advance
TRACTION DEVICES
KEEPING OUR CANYONS SAFE

Winter weather is challenging, especially in the canyons. UDOT wants to keep you safe. During severe winter weather Utah drivers must use traction devices on their vehicles.

UDOT or law enforcement agencies determine when road conditions require the use of these devices. Travelers are notified when they are required via road signs and UDOT’s traveler information systems.

REQUIRED TRACTION DEVICES

All-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicles
Minimum:
- M/S or M+S tires
Also acceptable:
- P Bridgestone tires
- Traction devices such as chains, snow socks, etc.

Vehicles below 12,000 GWW (passenger cars and most light duty trucks)
Minimum:
- Traction devices such as chains, snow socks, etc., on all drive tires

Vehicles over 12,000 GWW (buses, trucks, etc.)
Minimum:
- Traction devices such as chains, snow socks, etc., on all drive tires

PENALTY:
Class B Misdemeanor (Punishable by up to $1,000 fine and/or six months in jail)

Visit www.udot.utah.gov to learn more.
TRACTION DEVICES FOR 4WD-AWD VEHICLES
THREE-PEAK MOUNTAIN SNOWFLAKE OR M+S ALL SEASON TIRES ON ALL WHEELS

TRACTION DEVICES FOR ALL OTHER VEHICLES
CHAINS ON ALL DRIVE WHEELS OR ONE SET IN A DUAL

TRACTION DEVICES FOR VEHICLES BELOW 12000 GVW
THREE-PEAK MOUNTAIN SNOWFLAKE TIRES ON ALL WHEELS
Discussion

- Caltrans – Donner Pass chain valet
- UDOT has hired a Canyons-specific communication/PI specialist
- Additional certification/pass for traction-compliant vehicles?
  • RFID or sticker
  • Help law enforcement quickly determine compliance
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