Winter Driving Safety Tips

* All vehicles are required to carry tire chains.
* Reduce your speed.
* Keep your headlights on for visibility.
* Allow extra distance between vehicles.
* Stay well back when following snowplows.
* Use low gears, especially when driving downhill.
* Never stop or park in a traffic lane. Your life may depend on it!
* If your RWD vehicle skids: Reduce gas, steer where you want to go.
* If your FWD car skids: Accelerate slightly and steer where you want to go.
* Brake sparingly to avoid skidding by locking your brakes.
* Drive in the appropriate lane for your direction of travel. Avoid the center line.
* Ensure that your chains fit your tires and practice installing them before leaving home.
* Stop in a chain-up area, pullout, or parking lot to adjust, or remove tire chains.
* When parking, avoid setting your emergency brake. It may freeze.

Follow Traction Requirements

The road ahead has patches of snow and/or ice covering the surface. Your vehicle should have approved all-season tires, snow tires, or chains on the drive wheels. Approved traction tires are designated by "M-S", "M/S", "C", or "All Season" on the sidewall of the tires.

The road ahead is snow-packed or icy. Your vehicle must have tire chains (link, cable, or plastic) on the drive wheels. AWD and 4 WD vehicles may proceed without chains if they have snow tires on all four wheels, are in four wheel drive, and carry one set of chains in the vehicle for later installation if needed.

All vehicles must have chains on the drive wheels including AWD and 4 WD.

Welcome...

... to Mount Rainier National Park, the nation's fifth oldest national park. I am Dave Uberuaga the Park Superintendent. As a public servant for 30 years, I am honored to be chosen to protect this special place which is cared for by a dedicated staff and enthusiastic volunteers. The park staff, volunteers and concessions personnel are here to help make your visit enjoyable, whether this is your first visit or if you have been here many times.

Winter at Mount Rainier creates a unique environment and traveling on the mountain road to Paradise is an experience in itself! If you are trying out your new SUV, remember that it's the skills of the driver that count more than the type of vehicle being driven. Many visitors become overconfident with all-wheel drive, but driving with caution can prevent many vehicle accidents.

An exciting family activity you may be planning is tubing and sliding down the snowplay runs at Paradise, or snowshoeing with a Park Ranger. My wife and I brought our children, who are now young adults, to Paradise to enjoy these same activities many years ago. We have great memories of our day of "family fun" in the snow. Please remember, the snowplay is designed as a family-oriented activity and not intended for the extreme activities many years ago. We have great memories of our day of "family fun" in the snow. Please remember, the snowplay is designed as a family-oriented activity and not intended for the speed and excitement of the average 20-year old. If you're interested in a different snow challenge, sign up for the snowshoe walks and see another side of Paradise away from the snowplay activities.

As you head home, our gateway community businesses offer good food, coffee, arts and crafts. Stop and enjoy their hospitality and tell them the Superintendent sent you.

I hope you have a safe and wonderful visit to Mount Rainier - come see us again!

Dave Uberuaga
Park Superintendent

Winter Activities

Are you here for the snow? Where can you ski, snowshoe, or snow camp? Are there guided snowshoe walks? See the next page for winter recreation information.

Avalanche Aware

How are avalanches triggered? What can you do to avoid causing an avalanche? What are the different risk levels? Your introduction to avalanche awareness is on page 3.

Park Information

Where are the visitor centers? When are they open? Where can I get something to eat? How do I buy a National Parks Pass or a Mount Rainier Annual Pass? It's all on the back page!
Visitor Services & Activities, Winter 2005

SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, & SNOWBOARDING

Before starting out for the day, check the weather forecast and determine the avalanche hazard. Avalanche information, a weather forecast, and winter maps that show marked trails and popular unmapped routes are available from visitor centers and ranger stations.

In early winter or in years of low snowfall, trees and other plants are damaged by skiers and snowboarders when snow depth is not sufficient to protect vegetation. Ski and snowboard only in those areas where the snow is deep enough to cover and protect vegetation. There should be at least 5' of snow before building jumps.

ACCESSIBILITY

Most comfort stations, visitor centers, picnic areas, and designated campsites are accessible or accessible with help for wheelchair users. Accessible lodging is available inside the park and in local communities. In the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise, written information, exhibits, and scripts for uncaptioned audiovisual programs are available. TDD: (360) 569-2177

CAR CAMPING

Two campgrounds are open for car camping in winter. Sunshine Point, located 0.25 mile east of the Nisqually Entrance (SW corner of the park), $10 per night/per site. Ipsut Creek, located 5 miles east of Carbon River Entrance (NW corner, unpaved road/snow/subject to snow and washout closures), $8 per night/per site. No potable water. Camping in vehicles in parking lots or along roadways is not allowed.

PARADISE OVERNIGHT PARKING AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Lot</td>
<td>Parking head-in to bank</td>
<td>Over night parking is available on weekends and holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Lot</td>
<td>Parking head-in to island</td>
<td>Parking head-in to island available for visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise Inn</td>
<td>(Closed in winter)</td>
<td>Overnight parking is available in designated areas only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLIMBING & BACKPACKING

Over 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year. About half actually make it to the summit. Climbing information is available at ranger stations and on the park's website at www.nps.gov/mora/climb/climb.htm. For prerecorded route conditions, call (360) 569-2211 ext. 234. Climbers pay a Cost Recovery Fee of $35 per person, per calendar year. Climbing Passes are available via fax or mail. For more information go to the above website. Be aware that winter climbing and camping are much more demanding and hazardous than in summer.

Permits are required for all overnight stays in the Wilderness and for travel above 10,000' and/or on glaciers. Rangers issue permits from the Longmire Museum daily and at Paradise on weekends. Permits are also available at the Wilkeson Wilderness Information Center, and at the winter closure of SR410 near Crystal Mountain. Self-registration for climbers is available at the Paradise Ranger Station in the upper parking lot.

Snow camping permits a require a permit and sufficient snow depth to prevent resource damage. Camp in designated areas well away from buildings, marked trails, and parking lots. When you finish camping, collapse igloos and snowshoes to keep others from falling in. Fires are not permitted. Reservations are available at the Longmire Museum daily, and at Paradise on weekends only.

Groups of 13 or more and organized groups of any size, such as church and scout groups, are advised to pre-register at least two weeks in advance due to limited space by calling (360) 569-6003. Groups of 13 or more may camp in a designated group site only in the immediate Paradise area where there is access to 24 hour restrooms. Others should use "blue bags" to remove human waste from the park and/or deposit blue bags in a designated group site. Free permits are available at the Longmire Museum information desk. RANGER-LED SNOWSHOE WALKS

Join a park ranger or volunteer for an exciting introduction to the art of snowshoeing and find out how plants and animals adapt to winter at Paradise. Snowshoe walks are offered daily December 8 - January 2, and on weekends and holidays only through April 6.

Public snowshoe walks are offered at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., traverse 1.2 miles, and last for about a hour. These walks are limited to 10 people, eight years old or older, on a first-come, first-served basis. A sign-up sheet is available at the Jackson Visitor Center information desk one hour before each walk.

Organized groups (up to 25 people) may reserve snowshoe walks. These walks begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, inquire at the Longmire Museum or Jackson Visitor Center information desk, or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3314. The park also offers snowshoe walks to school groups by reservation only. Call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3319 for reservations.

Snowshoes are available for ranger-led snowshoe walks for a $6.00 donation (per pair). Do not forget sunscreen, sunglasses, layers of warm clothes, hats, mittens, and suitable boots (you will sink into the snow even with snowshoes on).

NEVER SKI OR SLIDE ON PLOWED ROADWAYS OR PARKING LOTS!

Whether the road is open or closed, snowplows may be working nearby.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA
**Beware of Avalanches**

Avalanche on Nisqually Glacier.

Snow avalanches are common in winter and spring. The greatest danger is an avalanche that you trigger by skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, or climbing in avalanche terrain.

Learn more about safe travel in avalanche country. Consider snowpack, weather, and topography in selecting your route. Ask yourself, "Will this slope slide?" and if it does, "Where will I or my partner go?" Carry an avalanche transceiver, probe, and shovel.

Remember, even small avalanches can be deadly.

**Avalanche Level Descriptions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slopes between 30 and 45 degrees pose the greatest avalanche danger.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk: Generally stable snow. Travel is usually safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Risk: Human-triggered avalanches possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considerable Risk: Human triggered avalanches probable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk: Natural and human-triggered avalanches likely. Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Risk: Widespread natural and human-triggered avalanches certain. Avoid travel in avalanche terrain. Confine travel to low angle terrain well away from avalanche path runouts.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Mount Rainier: An Active Volcano**

Recent research has improved our understanding of Mount Rainier, an active volcano. Active steam vents, periodic earth tremors, and reported historical eruptions provide evidence that Mount Rainier is sleeping, not dead. Seismic monitoring stations around the mountain should provide days or weeks of advance warning of impending eruptions. However, other geologic hazards like debris flows and rockfall can occur with little warning.

Needless to say, the longer you stay in an area where there are geologic hazards, the greater the chance that you could be involved in an emergency event. While most people consider the danger to be relatively low, you must decide if you will assume the personal risk of visiting these potentially dangerous locations.

**Statewide Winter Weather Reports**

Avalanche Hazard Forecasts: (206) 526-6677 http://www.nwac.us/forecasts.htm
Highway Pass Reports: (800) 695-7623 http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/

**Prepare and Take Care**

Mount Rainier offers excellent opportunities for exploration and adventure, but sometimes people get lost, injured, or worse. Reduce your risk by following these simple guidelines:

**Dress Warmly & Stay Dry**

Cold temperatures, wet snow, and wind can easily rob you of body heat. To avoid hypothermia and frostbite, dress warmly and stay dry. Wear layers of wool or synthetics like pile and polypropylene under a waterproof shell. Avoid exposure to wind. Snack frequently, drink lots of water, and take warm-up breaks indoors.

**Beware**

Pay attention to the weather. It’s easy to get lost or fall when the weather turns bad. The trail can quickly cover with snow, or thick fog can blanket your route. You need to know where you are and how to get to safety. You also need to know how to assess avalanche hazards to minimize potential risk.

**Prepare**

When hiking, climbing, skiing, or snowboarding, bring the “9 Essentials” and know how to use them. In addition, obtain compass bearings to Camp Muir or other off-trail destinations; carry an altimeter; wear rain- and wind-resistant clothing; and take a whistle, a “space blanket,” and a snow shovel.

**Take Care**

Tell someone your travel plans so they can notify the park if you fail to return. Do not travel alone or in poor visibility.

If you are not truly knowledgeable and prepared, or if the weather is questionable, don’t push your luck!

**Carry the “9 Essentials” and know how to use them:**

- map of the area
- compass
- extra food & water
- extra clothing (warm!) & rain gear
- emergency shelter
- first aid kit
- flashlight or headlamp
- sunglasses & sunscreen
- pocketknife
- matches (waterproof!)

**Protect Yourself And Your Park**

Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899 to preserve its resources and to provide for public benefit and enjoyment. By observing the rules, you protect your park and yourself:

- Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet and are not allowed in buildings, on trails, or on snow
- Do not feed or disturb the wildlife
- Stay on designated trails
- Make fires only in a fire grill. Collecting firewood is prohibited
- Weapons are prohibited in the park. Firearms transported through the park must be unloaded, broken down, and stored to prevent use
- Bicycle only on roads, not on trails

**Animal Encounters**

The beauty and wonder of Mount Rainier National Park doesn’t just come from the scenic grandeur of a single, towering mountain. The presence of wild creatures remains an essential part of the experience of wilderness. Being in the home of large creatures like black bear and mountain lion (cougar) can make Mount Rainier an exciting – and sometimes scary – place to visit. Though you are not likely to see them, if you do meet one of these larger mammals, learning more about them serves as your best defense – and theirs!

**Black Bear Sense**

- Never feed a black bear, either intentionally or by leaving food unsecured
- Do NOT approach bears or cubs
- If a black bear approaches you, try to scare it away by shouting and making noise
- If attacked, fight back aggressively
- Report all sightings to the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334

**Avoiding Mountain Lions**

- Hike in a group rather than alone. Avoid running – don’t look like prey
- Keep children close to you – preferably in view just ahead of you
- Never approach cougar kittens – leave the area immediately
- Follow the rules regarding pets in the park – don’t take your pet on trails or in the backcountry and never leave it unattended at the campground – you could lose it!

**Close Encounters With Mountain Lions**

- DON’T RUN! Stand still and face the lion with your companions
- Immediately pick up and hold small children
- Stand upright to make yourself appear larger – wave your arms and make a noisy commotion if the animal moves toward you
- Back away slowly while facing the animal
- If attacked, fight back aggressively
- Report all sightings to the nearest ranger station or call (360) 569-2211 ext. 3373 or ext. 2334

**In Case of Emergency**

**Dial 911**

From any phone located in the park.
Winter Hours
January - April, 2005
Visitor Centers
Longmire Museum (360) 569-2211 ext. 3314
Information, exhibits, book sales, climbing permits.
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily
Jackson Visitor Center - Paradise (360) 569-6036
Information, exhibits, movies, book sales, food service, gifts, showers.
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekends/holidays, and daily Dec. 18 - Jan 2 & Feb. 21 - 25
Wilkeson Wilderness Information Center (360) 829-5127
Information, exhibits, climbing and backpacking permits. Located in downtown Wilkeson. Call (360) 829-5127 for hours.

All other visitor centers are closed for the season.

Food & Lodging
For lodging reservations in the park call Mount Rainier (Guest Services at (360) 569-2275 or go to www.guestservices.com/rainier
National Park Inn - Longmire
Lodging, post office, and dining room serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Open year-round.
General Store - Longmire
Groceries, gifts, firewood. Open year-round. (Ski & snowshoe rentals & firechain purchases are available in winter.)
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
During ski touring season: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. weekends/holidays
Jackson Visitor Center - Paradise
Grill and Gift Shop:
11:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekends/holidays and daily Dec. 18 - Jan 2 & Feb. 21 - 25
Showers in the basement open during building hours.
Paradise Inn
Closed for the season. Will reopen in May.
Sunrise Lodge
Closed for the season. Will reopen in early July.

GAS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.

A Window to the Past
Want to learn about Mount Rainier National Park through the eyes of old-time rangers? Check out Nature Notes on Mount Rainier's website. From 1921 through 1939, park naturalists published hundreds of issues of Nature Notes. They feature articles on plants, wildlife, and history, along with poems, illustrations, and anecdotes. The entire collection of over 175 issues is now on the web. Check out: www.nps.gov/mora/notes.htm

Experience Your America with a National Parks Pass or a Mount Rainier Annual Pass

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Park Partners
Who's responsible for protecting Mount Rainier National Park? Everyone! Here are some people who deserve special thanks:

Visitors Like You
Just by paying the entrance fee, you make a difference. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Mount Rainier are kept in the park, while twenty percent are made available to other parks in need. Your money is helping several projects right now:

• Construction of a new Education Center
• Rehabilitating park trails
• Meadow restoration at Sunrise and Reflection Lakes
• Upgrading exhibits and media
• Rehabilitating picnic areas

As you explore the park, look for signs of your fees at work!

The Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA) operates bookstores in the park's visitor and information centers. As a nonprofit organization benefiting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest, NWIA plays an important role in making interpreting and educational publications available to travelers. It also funds special interpretive projects in the areas it serves. For more information or membership, call (360) 299-2211, ext. 3230, or visit NWIA on the web at www.nwppubliclands.com.

Washington's National Park Fund
Every million visitors visit Washington State's spectacular National Parks: Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic. Since 1993, Washington's National Park Fund has connected people to parks and inspired contributions of time, talent and money to help ensure that visitors have high-quality, memorable experiences in our parks. This fund supports projects that enhance the visitor experience, provide volunteerism, engage communities, and provide educational opportunities. By securing financial contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and businesses, Washington's National Park Fund supports park restoration, enhancement and preservation. Washington's National Park Fund is an affiliate of the National Park Foundation - a congressionally chartered 501(c)3 nonprofit which was rated "A" by the American Institute of Philanthropy for responsible use of donor funds. For more information about how you can help Washington's National Parks call (360) 770-0647, visit the website at www.wnpfund.org, or look for brochures in any of the park's visitor centers.

Volunteers
Each year more than 94,000 volunteers donate over 500,000 hours of service in the national parks. They come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. At Mount Rainier National Park, 1,095 volunteers contributed a total of 38,442 hours in 2004. We express our deep appreciation to them and to all who are volunteering in 2005! If you are thinking about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98514, (360) 959-2211 ext. 3135.

Explore Mount Rainier From Home!
Learn more about park resources, recreation opportunities, facilities, and much more on the web at www.nps.gov/mora or go directly to one the following website pages:

Education Page www.nps.gov/mora/education/index.htm
Information on teacher workshops, professional development and more!

Employment Page www.nps.gov/mora/employment.htm
Great information on jobs within the park.

Learn more about the park's natural resources.

Weather Links www.nps.gov/mora/current/weather.htm
Links to Mount Rainier and area weather and avalanche conditions.

Doing Our Part!
We all share the responsibilities of caring for our environment and conserving scarce natural resources. You probably do your part at home by carpooling and by turning down your thermostat and switching off your lights. Staff at Mount Rainier National Park do these things and many more out of concern for the environment.

At Mount Rainier National Park we focus on using new "green" products as they are developed. Many of our park vehicles and one of our generators run on emissions-reducing fuel. Recently we added 18 new vehicles to the park fleet with a propane fuel option.

We also purchase recycled plastic products such as plastic bags, picnic tables, and plastic lumber; paper products made of pre- and post-consumer recycled paper, automobile products; and other products.

Please Recycle!
Mount Rainier National Park has been involved in recycling since the late 1960's. We reduce our consumption of resources by reusing and recycling. We recycle aluminum cans, plastic (no. 1 and 2), glass, office paper, mixed paper, newspaper, cardboard, scrap metal, used oil, batteries, and a number of other items.

We also purchase recycled plastic products such as plastic bags, picnic tables, and plastic lumber; paper products made of pre- and post-consumer recycled paper, automobile products; and other products.

Be part of the effort! Please deposit aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass in the recycle cans provided.