

City Bracing For Possible Snow, Freezing Rain

Portland Area Under Winter Storm Warning Until 6 A.M. Sunday

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PORTLAND, Ore. -- The Oregon Department of Transportation has warned drivers about possible snow and ice Saturday that may make for dangerous driving conditions on area roads.

FOX 12 meteorologists said a trace to 2 inches of snow is expected in the Western valleys late Friday night and Saturday. There's also a good chance of freezing rain, which could make for tricky driving conditions over the weekend.

The National [Weather](#) Service has issued a winter storm warning for the Portland metro area that will be in effect from 8 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Sunday.

The cold spell is expected to subside Sunday, with temperatures rising to the low 40s.

Oregon Department of Transportation staff said they're gearing up for what could be a busy day. Spokesman David Thompson said ODOT is prepared for a wintry mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain, but that drivers must take caution.

"Do not expect roads to be in good condition at the very beginning of a freezing rain event," Thompson said. "If you don't have to travel in icy conditions, don't."

Transportation officials said their snow plows, deicers and sanders won't be able to do much until after the storm arrives.

"Our hands are tied while the storm is raging," Thompson said. "Once it's slowing down, once it starts to stop, we'll do whatever we can do to get the roads back open."

Before heading out into wintry weather, make sure to follow these tips:

- Make sure your car battery and windshield wipers are in good condition. Check tires to make sure they're properly inflated.
- Pack emergency supplies in your car: keep a blanket, water and warm clothes on hand. It's also a good idea to carry chains.
- Know before you go -- check the latest road conditions by calling 511 or visiting [kptv.com/traffic](#).

At a press conference Friday, Portland Mayor Sam Adams reminded drivers to use discretion before hitting the roads if conditions become icy or snowy.

"As always, if you have the option, delay your trip until it looks like the roads are passable," Adams said.

Adams encouraged city residents to report road hazards to 503-823-1700 and to visit PublicAlerts.org for weather information, closures, travel alerts and to find the nearest plowed road.

People in need of shelter during the storm can call 211 during business hours and they will be directed to a shelter. After hours, call 503-721-1500.

TriMet is also prepping for the wintry weather.

Transit officials said workers will put chains on 231 buses Friday night and apply deicer at 22 park and rides and transit centers.

Additionally, four to six light-rail trains will run TriMet's 52-mile system overnight to keep ice from accumulating on the overhead power line, officials said.

Because buses cannot exceed 25 mph with chains, said TriMet spokeswoman Mary Fetch, riders should be aware that buses will be delayed but will run regularly.

"We will pull out (Saturday) with chains on everything. (The buses) will not be on schedule. Be prepared -- you may be out in the elements a little longer," Fetch said.

TriMet workers said riders should follow these tips when snow and ice hit:

- Dress warmly and allow for extra travel time
- Chained buses will not follow schedules because drivers are limited to 25 mph, but buses will run at regular intervals
- If there's no traffic going by a bus stop, walk to a stop on a busy street
- If the bus stop is in the middle of a hill, walk to the bottom where the operator can safely stop
- Stand back from the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop; buses can slide sideways in slippery conditions

Get the latest information at [TriMet's Web site](http://TriMet.org) TriMet.org or by calling 503-238-RIDE (7433).

- [📧 Press Conference: Portland Prepped For Winter, Officials Say](#)

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