

# Turnpike to enforce tire ban, broadcast weather

**HARRISBURG** — The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission today said it intends to strictly enforce a safety and traffic regulation banning all vehicles not equipped with acceptable winter tires during declared snow emergencies on the 470-mile toll road system.

"During periods of severe snow and ice conditions when a snow emergency has been declared by the Commission, vehicles will be inspected at all Turnpike interchanges by toll collectors to make certain that acceptable winter tires are being used," Turnpike Chairman Jack I. Greenblat said.

"Those vehicles which don't have winter tires or chains will be banned during a snow emergency," he said.

"A car or truck not equipped with the proper winter tires or chains can cause havoc on our roadway and pose safety problems for the other drivers. These same drivers who won't take the necessary precaution to properly equip their vehicles also can and do prevent our snow plows from getting through and maintaining an open road," Greenblat said.

The Commission has ruled that any regular snow tread tire is acceptable. In addition, any radial tire accredited by the Rubber Manufacturers of America with the designation of "mud/snow," "M/S," or "Winter Tire" clearly embossed on the sidewall will

be acceptable for Turnpike travel.

Conventional radial tires without these special markings will be banned during snow emergencies, he added.

"During declared snow emergencies, the Turnpike Commission will attempt to keep the 'all-weather highway' open and negotiable. Our first obligation is to the public. We don't want any lives lost."

"The Turnpike will remain open as long as it is humanly possible to maintain, but will close when human life is endangered. In the event of a road closure, (1) All vehicles

will be directed to the nearest service plaza by State Police and Maintenance crews; (2) All parked vehicles will be checked for passengers and (3) Motorists will be kept informed of weather conditions at the service plazas.

"For the first time this year, the Turnpike has supplied the Pennsylvania broadcast news media with a toll-free Roadway and Weather Condition Report. In the event of a declared snow emergency or when road closures occur, this information will be available to travelers by tuning to the nearest AM Radio Station," Greenblat said.

"We don't anticipate any

Turnpike road closures due to severe snow or ice conditions, but we are prepared for them in any case," he added.

The Commission offers the following advice for travelers using the Turnpike during a declared snow emergency:

Tune radio to nearest AM Station for Turnpike Weather and Road Conditions.

Use approved winter tires and/or chains.

Remain behind snow plow trains.

Never let gas tank get below 1/2 full mark.

Carry blanket and candy bars in car.

Decrease speed.

Move into Service Plazas when directed.

If car is disabled, stay with car until aid arrives.

"The Pennsylvania Turnpike doesn't spare expense when it comes to keeping our roadway open and safe at all times. The Commission uses more than 200 pieces of heavy snow-fighting equipment, 100,000 tons of road chemicals and 800 men on standby alert basis to keep the Turnpike open and safe throughout the winter months," Greenblat said.

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