



**To:** Richard F. Pucci, City Administrator  
**From:** David Grah, Director of Public Works  
**Subject:** City of Bishop Tire Chain Control Policy  
**Date:** 10 February 2009

**General:**

This establishes the policy that tire chain requirements in the City of Bishop follow the chain requirements established by Caltrans for Main Street (Highway 395) and West Line Street (Highway 168).

**Background:**

Tire traction devices, devices that enhance tire traction in snow and ice conditions and commonly called tire chains, are sometimes needed on vehicles operating on city streets. At the same time, the City of Bishop has no formal process in place to establish and communicate these requirements.

Caltrans routinely uses its resources to establish and communicate chain requirements for all State Highways including the two primary streets in Bishop, Main Street and West Line Street. Since most vehicle trips within Bishop involve travel on these two Caltrans-controlled streets, drivers in the city should expect to meet the chain requirements on those streets when they venture out during snowy and icy conditions. Unfortunately, without a clear policy, there is risk that drivers will attempt to drive on city streets without chains or snow tires even when they are needed.

**Policy:**

Unless established otherwise, chain requirements for all City of Bishop streets and alleys west of Main Street will be the same as those set by Caltrans on West Line Street and chain requirements for all city streets and alleys east of Main Street will be the same as those set by Caltrans on Main Street.

Since both Highway 168 and Highway 395 are long routes, care is needed to ensure the chain requirements for the portions of those highways in Bishop are noted.