



NEWS RELEASE

Date: 1/11/11
Release Date: Immediately
Contact: Brian Barker, Public Information Officer, 503-441-9324 (pager)

TVF&R Prepared for Icy Conditions

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue is preparing for the possibility of ice and snow today. Firefighters have ensured that chains for fire apparatus are at the ready and have drafted plans to lengthen the shifts of some firefighters if conditions warrant.

To help crews navigate icy roads, firefighters have several resources:

- Tire Chains. Depending on where they are based and the road conditions, our engines, trucks and other fire apparatus chain up – both front and back.
- 4-wheel Drive Emergency Response Vehicles. In areas of the higher elevations, we can utilize these alternative response vehicles to respond to non-fire incidents such as water problems, downed power lines, and even medical calls.
- Reserve apparatus. Some stations are equipped with reserve fire apparatus. In some cases (as in the photo, above) reserve apparatus are equipped with chains, so that crews can choose between a chained fire engine and an engine without chains depending on where they're being dispatched.

"We usually see an increase in call volume during an ice or snow event, many of those calls are motor vehicle crashes, falls and downed power lines," says TVF&R Public Information Officer Brian Barker, "but we're ready to respond to those additional calls for help."

TVF&R reminds you to use extra care when driving during a snow or ice storm and remember that icy roads frequently look wet or even dry. De-ice your sidewalk if you can and check in on elderly family members and neighbors who may have difficulty walking on slippery surfaces.

