

## Bruce Road – Winter Safe Driving Guidelines

Weather and Road Conditions can and do change quickly on the Bruce Road.

*The temperature can be 3°-5° colder at Iwikau compared to Whakapapa and even colder with wind chill if there is more than a slight breeze.*

Check road and weather conditions before and during your journey to Whakapapa.

Whether driving 2WD or 4WD, carry chains that fit your vehicle and know how to fit them.

Aim to fit chains and/or engage 4WD before extra traction is needed. Once your vehicle is sliding or stopped, it's often too late.

Chain fitting areas on the Bruce Road include:-

- the DoC public shelter just beyond the DoC centre,
- the area before and to right of the Barrier arm,
- Scoria flat.

Wear warm clothing (ski jacket, hat, gloves) and solid walking boots for the journey up the Bruce Road.

In case you must park a distance from your club hut, ensure you have all your essential items in one pack (not a suitcase) so that it can be easily carried in the cold and possibly windy weather.

In case of icy conditions, suggest investment in boot chains or grippers.

### NOTES:

1. If the VMS (Variable Messaging Sign) says 2WD carry chains, this means carry chains and to be prepared to fit them. It is the driver's responsibility to know when to fit chains and how to fit them.
2. Fitting chains above Scoria Flat is problematic due no road shoulder to pull over to, minimal flat areas and exposed to wind.

Some useful links:

Includes a Video on Fitting Chains

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/driving-safely/winter-driving/>

NZ Driving – Snow Roads 21 Tips

<https://www.drivingtests.co.nz/resources/21-tips-for-driving-in-snow/>

ICY Road Safety

<http://icyroadsafety.com/tips.shtml>

Safewise – Great tips here also

<https://www.safewise.com/blog/safe-driving-tips-winter-road-conditions/>