

Use common sense when GPS navigation detour routes are given

When roads are closed and your GPS navigation system is directing you onto a detour route, keep in mind that the device you count on for guidance could instead guide you into trouble. Most navigation tools don't take into consideration current road or weather conditions. They may direct you onto remote and un-serviced roads that are not maintained or passable in all weather conditions.

Navigation systems and similar smart phone apps are great tools, but travelers may need to verify the identified detour route is appropriate given current conditions and the vehicle they are driving. Here are a few tips to consider:

What you can do

- Be aware that the app on your phone or in your GPS device might not have the latest information – don't follow it blindly!
- Use TripCheck.com (on your computer and on your phone) to get the latest on state road conditions.
- Remember, in winter conditions (as in summer's fire season conditions), roads can be impassable, so **USE COMMON SENSE**.
- If you are not familiar with an area and current road conditions, stay on state roads and don't attempt detours onto roads you don't know.
- Alter your travel plans. If you are not 100 percent sure of the route and road conditions your GPS device is directing you to, ask local folks for information and consult a map. It is better to stay the night in town, rather than be stuck on a remote road in the middle of nowhere.

What we will do

- ODOT crews continually work to keep state highways safe, but during certain conditions, such as blowing snow and freezing temperatures, you may want to avoid travel altogether.
- ODOT will issue media flash alerts if roads are closed and these will be updated continually on TripCheck.com.



Snow covered everything at the ODOT Austin Maintenance a few winters ago.

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