



Courtesy of

Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior
and
United States Army Garrison Ansbach

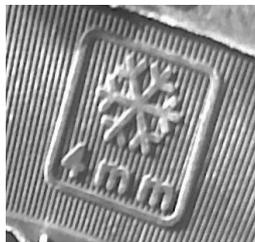


Drive Safely Through the Winter!

In Germany it has become law that all motor vehicles are required to have the proper tires mounted according to the road conditions. What this means is that you must have winter tires mounted when the weather starts going bad. While Germany does not have a specific date to have winter tires, the law states winter tires are required during winter weather.

Amended in 2010, the German traffic regulation made winter tires a legal requirement during glazed ice, packed snow, slush, frost or other icy weather conditions and applies to two-, three- and four-wheeled vehicles. Non-compliance can result in a fine of €40 and €80 if involved in an accident or if your vehicle becomes a hazard in the roadway due to inclement weather and having the wrong tires.

Winter tires may be marked with a Mud and Snow “M+S” label, a snowflake or an alpine symbol. All weather or all season tires must bear one of these markings and have at least 4mm of tread depth to qualify as winter tires.



Information on Tires

Winter tires have maximum speeds allowed from the manufacture and are codes on the sidewall of the tire. Some common ratings are P (93mph), Q (99mph), S (112mph), T (118mph), H (130mph), W (168), and Y (186mph). Always check with the tire manufacturer to ensure correct speed ratings.

Replace winter tires when damaged (cracks, bulges) or after six years of use. You must have at least 4mm of tread on your tires.

The contact area of your tires and the road is small; about the size of a postcard so use caution and do not begin a journey without the proper tires or drive outside of your comfort level.

If you are uncomfortable, for whatever reason, slow down or do not drive!

Braking distance between winter and summer tires on snow covered roads.

At 50 kph/31 mph, a vehicle with snow tires in inclement weather will stop within 30 meters.



At the same speed of 50 kph/31 mph, a vehicle with summer tires in inclement weather will strike an obstacle at the same 30 meters at speeds of 38kph/23.6MPH.



Information on Road Conditions

Road conditions posted online or stated by the Military Police are not applicable to the civilian workforce when travelling off-post. Road conditions are planning tools for Military Commanders only. These road conditions dictate whether or not military tactical and non-tactical vehicles, US School busses, US Shuttle services are dispatched, whether or not US facilities are closed, or if work reporting times are delayed. These road conditions **do not** apply to the civilian workforce (German and US Government), privately owned vehicles, or the local community when travelling off-post. All civilian workers **must** contact their supervisors for guidance in any inclement weather.

To find out the road conditions and to find out if Schools or US facilities are being closed or there is a work delay due to inclement weather call: 09802-83-3882 DSN 467-3882.

If you have an emergency call 09802-83-114 (Military Police), 09841-83-117 (Fire Department) 110 (Polizei), or 112 (Ambulance)

There is a downloadable reference card with all the Emergency numbers on it at:

<http://www.ansbach.army.mil/documents/EmergencyPhoneNumbers.pdf>

The IMCOM road conditions web page is at: http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/road_conditions/index.asp



Winter Weather Preparedness

Automotive Safety

- Check road conditions before departure:
<http://www.ansbach.army.mil/InclementWeather.html>
- Clear snow and ice from lights, signals and windows
- Buckle up each and every time
- Scan ahead/anticipate problems
- Slow down and increase following distance for wet, snowy or icy conditions
 - Avoid quick braking or acceleration
 - Never use cruise control during inclement weather
- Maintain a winter survival kit in the vehicle
- Dress warmly - it's cold
- Don't drink and drive



Germany's "50/50 Law" states, if visibility is 50 meters (164 feet) or less, the maximum speed limit is 50 kilometers (30 miles) per hour.



Inclement Weather

Road Condition Colors & Meaning

-  Green: Normal
-  Amber: Hazardous
-  Red: Dangerous
-  Black: Extremely Dangerous

Assessment and Information Release

- Assessments are of primary roads.
 - B13, B14, B470, A6.
- 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. MP Patrols assess roads.
- 5 a.m. Road condition messages released on AFN, IMCOM-E weather & road website, Twitter #AnsbachAlerts, and Facebook.
- Assessments continue at all times.

Individual actions

- Individual responsibility is first and foremost
- Check multiple sources of weather information
- Assess ability, location and destination
- Contact your supervisor
- Reduce speed & increase time to arrive safely.

❖ Delays allows clearing of roads and parking areas.

Green= Normal:

Dry surface



Red= Dangerous:

Flooding, Drifting snow
Ice Sheets
4-8in of snow
Visibility less than 20m



Amber= Hazardous:

Packed Snow/Slush
Patches of ice
Up to 4in of snow
Visibility 20-50 m



Black= Extremely Dangerous:

Heavy Flooding, Extreme
Sheets of Ice, 8+ in of snow
Visibility less than 15m



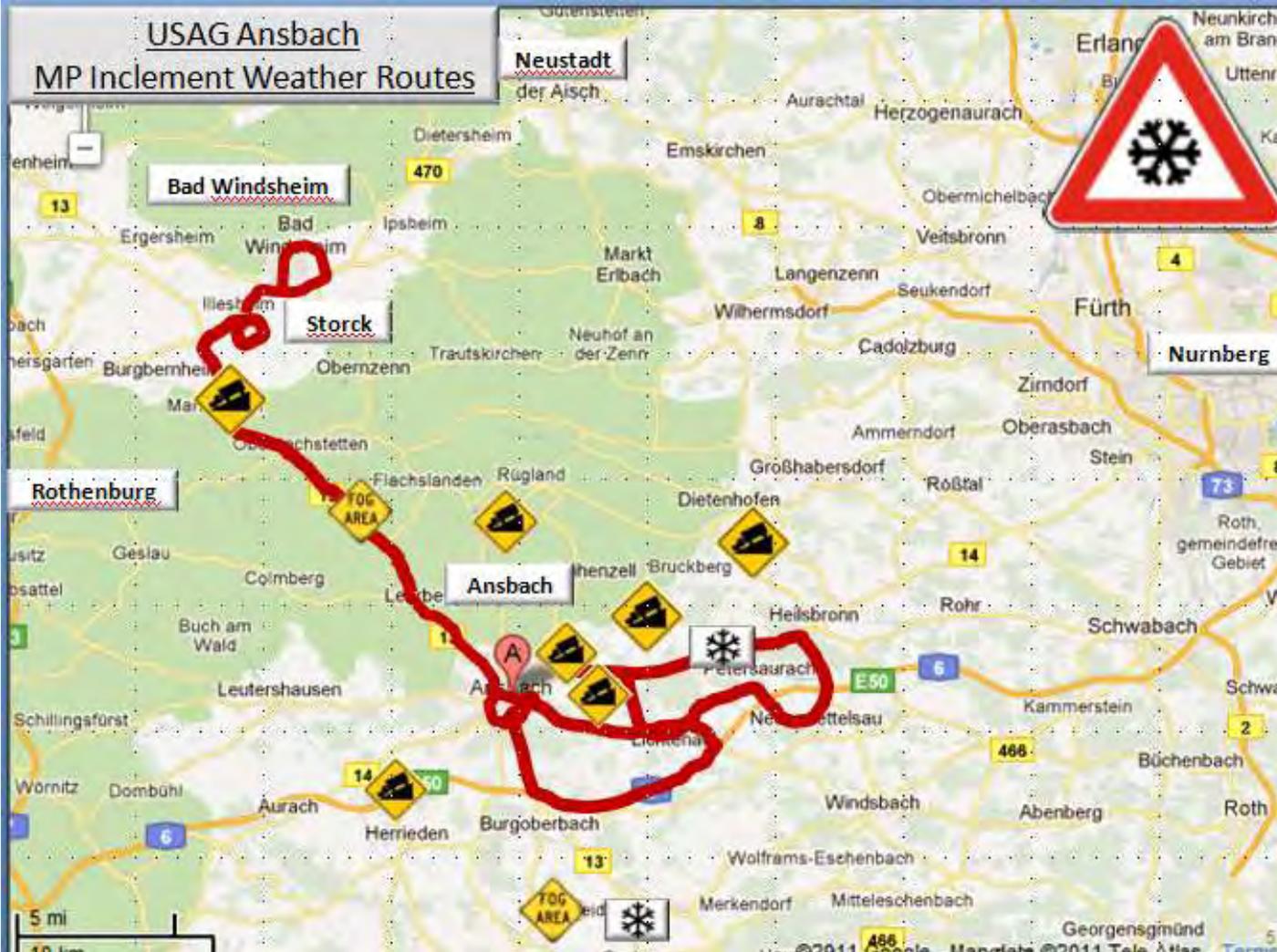
- ❖ Primary accident cause: speed excessive for conditions.
- ❖ Fines for incorrect tires & vehicle causing a hazard.
- ❖ Research location and destination before traveling.



USAG ANSBACH COMMUNITY TOWNHALL



Inclement Weather



Routes Checked

- USAG Ansbach road conditions are based on primary roads.
- Secondary roads may take hours or days to clear.
- Host Nation snow removal starts on primary roads first, around 4 a.m., or as weather dictates
- There are several hazardous areas.
- Know your;
 - Area,
 - Alternate routes,
 - Your capabilities,
 - Your vehicles capabilities,
- **Be prudent and do not travel when it is dangerous.**

COL Christopher Benson

The *BEST* Hometown in Europe!