

C Interim ACT Safety Policies (May 2017)

The new policies are shown in blue.

- There must always be at least two people in the truck and at the site. The truck must be equipped with a roll-over protection bar, and everyone must wear seatbelts. In the truck must be: charged ALMA radio, snow chains, shovels, water and cold weather clothes for everyone in the truck, bottled oxygen, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, spare tire, windshield scraper, ropes or tow strap.
- Always use the transit alarm button on/off. This web-based button notifies the remote observer when you are leaving from / returning to San Pedro de Atacama, and then when you have arrived at the destination. An alarm is emailed if the trip is longer than 2.6 hours.
- Do not exceed 60 km/hr on any dirt road. On the ALMA road, the speed limit is 45 km/hr. In general, drive for the conditions as you find them: slower around the curves; slower when the road is rougher; don't drive through deep snow; etcetera.
- If there is a truck accident, contact ALMA immediately on Channel 1 on the radio. Stay with the truck until help arrives.
- Do not go up to the site if the ALMA road to the AOS is closed due to bad weather at the high site. Check for email to the CWG mailing list about road closings before every ascent.
- When there is more than 5 cm of snow on the mountain road, follow the ACT Snow Guidelines described on the next page.
- In case of emergency, assess the situation, administer basic first aid as necessary, call ALMA, then contact Maria Jose Amaral in San Pedro de Atacama, and finally, contact someone in North America.
- Do not pick up hitch hikers, but of course assist anyone in need.
- Take extra care when dark. When dark, do not use the entrance/exit near km 45 on the Paso de Jama road. Use the entrance near km 35.
- All ACT members are expected to be familiar with the Chajnantor Working Group (CWG) Safety Policy, available at <http://act.princeton.edu/site>.

C.1 ACT Snow Guidelines

These guidelines are all new.

- Caution is strongly advised under the following circumstances with snow ≥ 5 cm deep on the road. If two or more of the following apply, **do not attempt to ascend to the site.**
 1. When driving with little prior experience in snow and/or off roading.
 2. When driving with a single truck.
 3. When driving a truck without snow chains and/or mud terrain (MT) tires.
 4. When riding in a convoy (2 or more trucks) in which one is without a complete set of proper equipment (hooks/shackles, tow straps, shovels, snow chains).
 5. When starting the ascent in snow later than 2pm.
 6. When starting the ascent in the face of forecasts of bad weather (snow or high winds) or actual bad weather conditions.
- If any of the following conditions holds, **abort the attempt to ascend to the site.**
 1. If snow is not packed down and is deeper than: 15 cm for a truck without MT tires and/or chains, or 30 cm for a truck with MT tires and/or chains.
 2. If strong winds are present (≥ 45 km/hr).
 3. If patches of snow are deeper than 50 cm and/or longer than 2 m.
 4. If visibility drops below: ~ 30 m before 2 PM, or below ~ 50 m after 2 PM.
 5. If you lose a chain more than once, or if a chain fails (links, locks, shackles, etc. get damaged).
 6. If you are in a single truck and get stuck more than once in the same spot/area, or more than 3 times on the whole route.
 7. If you are in a convoy and one truck gets stuck more than once in the same spot, or if the other vehicles get stuck as well, or if the convoy has to halt in one spot for more than 20 minutes.
 8. If weather conditions suddenly worsen and linger for more than 20 min (quick drops of temperature and/or visibility, strong gusts of wind, snowing/hailing, etc.)
 9. If the snow is blowing and/or falling sufficiently to cover up the tracks of the truck in 15 minutes or less.
- You should also check in with the rest of the team and/or convoy if you get stuck or lose a chain even once, and consider aborting the attempt to ascend at that point if it is late, or team members are too cold or tired. Safety is more important than accessing the site.