

**CalTrans Wintertime Safe Driving Tip**

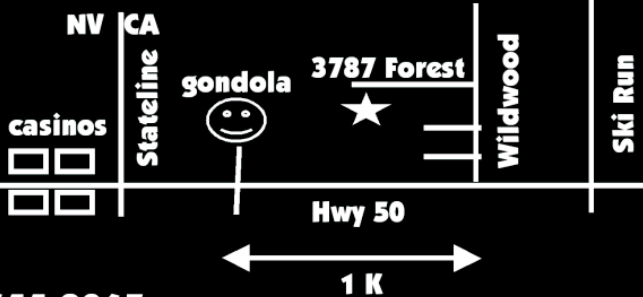
Slow down! A highway driving speed of 55 or 65 miles per hour is safe in dry weather, but an invitation for trouble on snow or ice. Snow and ice make your stopping distances much longer so leave extra space between your car and the one ahead of you.

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**Northstar hosts first Burton park**

TRUCKEE, Calif. - After being ranked among the top 10 resorts in all three categories of terrain parks and halfpipes by *Transworld Snowboarding*, it is no surprise that Northstar-at-Tahoe was selected to be the West Coast home of the first-ever Burton Progression Park, which will debut this December.

Featuring smaller versions of freestyle terrain features, gentle landings and plenty of elbow room, these ground-breaking parks provide a laid-back, non-intimidating environment for riders of all ages who want to develop their terrain park skills.

The Progression Park concept is a collaborative effort between the Burton Resort Team, Booth Creek Ski Holdings and Snow Park Technologies (SPT) led by Chris (Gunny) Gunnarson.

SPT is recognized as the industry leader in park and pipe design and has created courses for ESPN's Winter X Games, Burton's U.S. Open, Vans Tahoe Cup, the World Championships of Snowboarding and all Booth Creek Resorts.

"The inception of the Progression Park and its related teaching and rental programs are perfect for Northstar," said Chris Gunnarson. "There are so many people of all ages who want to learn to hit a jump or slide a rail and the Progression Park is the ideal place to learn."

"Burton has been a fantastic

partner on this project and continues to impress me with their passion for progressing the sport of snowboarding."

The Burton Progression Parks are designed to attract entry-level park riders and to be used as a tool for Northstar's coaches and ski/snowboard instructors to incorporate freestyle terrain into their teaching programs.

Northstar's snowboard school will use the park in second, third and more advanced lessons to those who choose to try the freestyle terrain. The park will be open to the general public as well.

The Progression Park goes hand-in-hand with Northstar's Burton Learn-to-Ride Center which specializes in accelerating the learning curve for snowboarding using two concepts: beginner specific equipment and small class sizes.

All beginner snowboarders in the program are taught on Burton's Cruiser boards, which feature a three degree beveled edge to minimize falls caused by catching an edge on the snow.

The concept behind the Burton Progression Park is that by offering the right environment, riders will be encouraged to take a series of lessons and continue to progress in the sport.

"As the founder of the world's premier snowboarding contest series, the Open Snowboarding Championships, Burton has always helped to define and progress freestyle snowboarding," says

Jeff Boliba, Global Resort Director.

"But progressing the sport isn't just about supporting the pros. It's also about breaking down the barriers for beginners, helping them feel at ease and able to develop their own individual styles."

Northstar's Burton Progression Park will be located on Sidewinder, off the Vista chairlift, and will feature six small jumps, boxes and rails, with some features located mere inches from the ground.

The features are designed so that they become slightly more difficult as riders work their way down the park, which allows the rider to learn and progress at their own pace.

The beauty of the Burton Progression Park is that it was designed to allow plenty of room down the sides of the run for people to cruise and check out the features, without having to ride them.

A "Stop & Drop Zone" will be located before each feature, to allow a group lesson to stop, check out the feature and discuss the proper method of riding the feature. Signage in each zone offers guidance with a "trick tip," a picture of a pro rider hitting the feature and a Smart Style message - the National Ski Areas Association's terrain park responsibility code that encourages people to ride parks with safety and style.

The Progression Park will be different from most park runs, where riders hit features repeatedly without really See TERRAIN, Page 15



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