



Oregon Department of Administrative Services
155 Cottage Street NE, U20 Salem, Oregon 97301-3966

News Release

For Immediate Release

Nov. 23, 2009

Contact: Lonh Hoklin, Public Affairs Manager, DAS
(503) 378-2627
lonh.hoklin@state.or.us

Next state closure day happens on Friday, Nov. 27
State workers take unpaid day-off to save taxpayers about \$2 million

Salem — Because of budget reductions for state agencies, most state offices will close on Friday, and 26,500 state employees will take mandatory unpaid furloughs on that day, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announced Monday.

The closure on Nov. 27 is the second of 10 closure dates the state has scheduled over the current two-year budget period. Each day of closure will save an estimated \$2 million in personnel costs, said DAS Director Scott Harra. While the closures affect both management and non-management employees, many state workers will take up to four additional days of unpaid furlough on a floating basis over the remainder of the biennium.

“We want to remind people that this closure falls on the day after Thanksgiving,” Harra added, “which means most state offices will be closed for four consecutive days, when you count the weekend. We encourage Oregonians to plan now to conduct their business with the state on the first three business days of this week, or perhaps put it off until next week, when state agencies will re-open. We apologize for any inconvenience these closures might cause to the public, and we look forward to restoration of a full work schedule for all state agencies when the economy improves.”

State agencies will do everything possible to minimize any hardship the closures might cause, Harra said. Customers can still do business with DMV and some other state agencies online, even though the offices are closed. Harra encouraged the public to check agencies’ Web sites to find out whether online transactions are possible on the closure day.

Some workers will stay on the job

Harra emphasized that certain state employees who provide essential services in public safety will remain on the job as usual—State Police officers, corrections officers and certain state hospital workers, for example.

Unions, state negotiated which days to close

Over the past summer, the state's management team and the unions that represent state workers negotiated an agreement that specifies which days to designate as closure days. The negotiators took into account the need to minimize public inconvenience while keeping critical operations open and functioning.

State Web sites offer information on closures

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services has published information about Friday's closure and furloughs on the state's Web site (www.Oregon.gov), along with a schedule of the remaining closure days. Members of the public can also find out which state offices will remain open on the closure days. Harra urged the public to check individual agencies' Web sites for additional information.

The state has scheduled the following dates as closure days with mandatory unpaid furloughs (all are Fridays):

October 16, 2009

November 27, 2009

March 19, 2010

April 16, 2010

June 18, 2010

August 20, 2010

September 17, 2010

November 26, 2010

March 18, 2011

May 20, 2011