

Transportation Safety

Keeping Oregon roads safe is an individual, community and partnership effort. In recent years, this diligence has been paying off, with a continued decline in fatalities on Oregon highways. Still, the focus must remain on being safe — it's ODOT's number one priority.

- 377 people died in traffic crashes in 2009. This was the **lowest number of fatalities** on Oregon roads since the 1940s. In 2008, Oregon had 411 fatalities.
- Oregon's highway fatality rate in 2009 was **1.08 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles**, the lowest in Oregon history. In 2008, it was 1.24 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles.

Drivers make the difference

- Speed: some 50 percent of all traffic fatalities in Oregon in 2008 involved speed.
- Driving Under the Influence: approximately **55 percent of Oregon's 2008 traffic fatalities were alcohol-related** and/or drug-related.
- Despite more cars than ever driving on Oregon's roads, motorists are making choices that are reducing crashes, injuries and fatalities.

Oregonians are buckling up!

- Oregon consistently ranks among the top three states in the nation for safety belt use. Since the seat belt law was introduced in 1990, use has risen from approximately 48 percent to **97 percent in 2009**.
- In 2007, the Oregon Legislature brought the state's child passenger restraint requirements up to "best practice" standards; Oregon requires child safety seats and booster seats for children until they meet certain weight, age and height requirements.

- Still, 43 percent of Oregon's traffic fatalities in 2008 were unrestrained motor vehicle occupants.

ODOT's Transportation Safety Division:

- Promotes transportation safety statewide through education, enforcement, engineering and emergency response — the "Four E's."
- Provides major statewide safety programs focusing on occupant protection, impaired driving, speed, young drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, driver education, safety corridors, school zones, safe routes to school and work zones.
- Coordinates transportation safety activities and programs with state and local agencies, local governments, police agencies, health organizations, emergency responders, nonprofit groups and the private sector.
- Delivers safety programs through more than **500 grants and contracts** each year with safety partners statewide and through the volunteer efforts of citizens, organizations and agencies.

Public gets involved

The governor appoints three volunteer citizen committees to work with TSD and advise the Oregon Transportation Commission on transportation safety policy:

- Oregon Transportation Safety Committee.
- Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII.
- Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety.

More than half of the TSD budget comes from federal transportation safety funds. For more information about Oregon's transportation safety efforts, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/index.shtml