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HQ 07-018

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ODOT urges caution: Spring forward *carefully* into Daylight Saving Time

Not all crosswalk signal controllers are automatic—some may flash wrong hours Monday

Since 1986, most of the U.S. has observed Daylight Saving Time from 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of April to 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Beginning in 2007, however, Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2:00 a.m. on the **second Sunday in March** (March 11, 2007) and revert to standard time on the **first Sunday in November** (Nov. 4, 2007).

This change could affect hardware and software timing systems along Oregon highways, including signal timing and flashing light timing at school zones. Time-based access control systems that can't be changed remotely may signal the wrong hours Monday, March 12, until work crews can manually re-program them. **ODOT asks that motorists be extra cautious in their driving that Monday, especially around school zones.**

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A brief history of Daylight Saving Time

Benjamin Franklin first proposed the idea in 1784. Many other countries adopted the practice after the turn of the 20th Century. The U.S. has observed this time shifting (variously called "Summer Time," "Daylight Shifting Time" or "War Time") very inconsistently since 1918, including during World Wars I and II; President Nixon enacted a comprehensive law in 1974 as an energy-saving measure. Daylight Saving Time trims the entire country's electricity usage by about one percent each day, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The April/October dates were set in 1986. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended Daylight Saving Time the additional weeks we will first experience this year — although Congress retained the right to revert to the 1986 law should the change prove unpopular or if energy savings are not significant.

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