

# Winter Roadway Guide



- Plow & Sander Safety
- Winter Driving Can Be Dangerous
- Prevent Drowsy Driving
- See and Be Seen



- TripCheck/ODOT on Web
- Wear Safety Belts
- Practice Chaining Up
- Winter Car Care Tips
- Winter Checklist

# INTRODUCTION: 2011-2012 Winter Roadway Guide

Fellow Oregonians,

Welcome to another edition of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Winter Roadway Guide for the eastern side of the state. I would like to open this edition of our annual winter safety newspaper supplemental by saying thank you to everyone who has taken the time to think about safety when getting behind the wheel. For the past several years people like you are driving more cautiously and paying extra attention on Oregon highways, and it shows. Oregon is experiencing traffic-related fatalities that are below the five year average for the sixth year in a row. Data collected to date indicates this trend is continuing for 2011. Our target is zero fatal crashes and with your help we will continue to strive for that goal. This Winter Roadway Guide is just one of the tools everyone can use to help us drive for a safer tomorrow.

In the following pages you'll find safety tips for driving in winter weather conditions, suggestions for installing winter tire chains, appropriate use of fog lights, and winter car care tips. There are also updates on eastern Oregon highway construction projects, plus links to additional information and safety related videos posted on the Internet. Readers with smart phones can also scan the quick reference, or QR codes located in this flyer for direct connection to more information via their mobile devices. I encourage you to share this information with other members of your family and keep this Winter Roadway Guide handy throughout the season.



TripCheck QR code

We at the Oregon Department of Transportation feel very fortunate to serve the traveling public on major highway routes and along numerous downtown corridors. Working together with city, county and tribal partners we are building transportation improvements all over the region, like recent sidewalk and intersection work in Pendleton and Burns, and freeway resurfacing near Baker City, La Grande and Stanfield. Future projects are also scheduled in and around the communities of Nyssa, Ontario, Union, John Day, Athena, Enterprise, Umatilla, Irrigon and others.

Transportation projects like these are not only creating a safer and more efficient system, but statewide they are supporting thousands of family wage jobs and helping rebuild Oregon's fragile economy. Through these tough economic times ODOT will continue to stretch our maintenance and construction funds to get the maximum benefit for all travelers.

We appreciate the support of those who use Oregon's transportation system, our many dedicated contractors, community partners and others who help make our side of the state a better place to live, work and play.

Wishing you a happy and safe winter season,

Monte Grove  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Eastern Oregon Regional Manager



Traffic rolls along the newly resurfaced section of I-84 near Baker City. The combination of concrete (slow lane) and asphalt (fast lane) is often referred to as a 'black and white' highway.

## Transportation Construction Update

With winter snow on the horizon, most highway and bridge projects are now complete or in their final stages. A few multi-year projects will shut down for the winter and resume next spring along with numerous new projects planned for the 2012 construction season. Below listed are some of the major accomplishments for this year, as well as highlights for some of the work you will see in the near future.

### 2011 PROJECTS

Like most years, 2011 was a busy one for ODOT with state crews and contractors resurfacing nearly 300 lane miles of pavement on Interstate 84, U.S. 20, U.S. 30, OR 201 and other eastern Oregon routes. Bridges were also repaired or replaced, sidewalks upgraded and dangerous intersections reconfigured to enhance safety.

Interstate 84 resurfacing: Over 200 lane miles of freeway were resurfaced this summer as part of three major I-84 paving projects between Baker City and Boardman. Sections of roadway were showing signs of deterioration and wheel track rutting. All major construction is now completed, however, some finish work remains that could lead to minor delays and lane closures at times through early November.

- North of Baker City a 10-mile section of freeway was resurfaced with concrete in the truck/slow lane and asphalt in the passing/fast lane. This project was originally scheduled to take two years, but the contractor completed it in just one. The work also included chip sealing a seven-mile section of freeway in passing/fast lanes only south of Baker City to help preserve the existing pavement surface. This project accounted for over 50 lane miles of pavement resurfacing.

- Near La Grande about 10 miles of I-84 was resurfaced in the eastbound and westbound truck/slow lane only. "The fast lanes are in pretty good shape, but there are some significant wheel track ruts and other deterioration in the slow lane along this stretch of freeway," said ODOT Assistant Project Manager Mike Remily. This project was mostly constructed at night to reduce impacts to

travelers.

- Further west, thirty miles of eastbound and westbound freeway received major resurfacing between the Stanfield Interchange at mile point 188 and Tower Road at mile point 159. To help alleviate traffic impacts to motorists, some of the work on this project was also constructed during nighttime hours.

### U.S. 30 bridge repairs, U.S. 395

### sidewalks, U.S. 20 intersection upgrades and local agency projects:

The bridge that connects U.S. 30 to westbound I-84 at Exit 259 near La Grande was repaired this summer, getting a new deck surface, structural support repairs and bridge rail upgrades. Work on this project is scheduled to be completed by mid November. On Pendleton's south side ODOT's contractors installed several blocks worth of new concrete sidewalks along U.S. 395 (Southgate). And, on U.S. 20 in Burns the intersection with Monroe Street was reconfigured to create a safer connection for motorists and pedestrians.

Another 2011 project in Union County is the construction of a parking area with informational panels at the historic Upper Perry Arch Bridge along U.S. 30, 10 miles west of La Grande. The circa 1924 concrete arch bridge was rehabilitated in 2009. It represents one of the few remaining structures in eastern Oregon designed by the state's premier bridge engineer Conde B. McCullough. The new interpretive site and parking area will be completed by the end of November.

ODOT funds also went towards numerous local agency projects off the state highway system for the cities of Pendleton, Ontario, Canyon City, La Grande and others. Just about every eastern Oregon county also had transportation improvement projects in the works, including Union County's Peirce Road project and Grant County's multi-year Paulina - Izee Highway upgrade project.

**ODOT crews construct improvements on U.S. 20, U.S. 30, OR 207, OR 332 and OR 7:** In addition to contracted work, ODOT maintenance crews were out in force all summer tackling several

*continued on page 8*



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## Keep a safe distance from plows and sanders

In a contest between a snowplow and any other vehicle, the snowplow will be the clear winner. Drivers who try to pass on the right when a snowplow is in operation run the risk of damaging their vehicles, hitting the snowplow, or even going off the road.

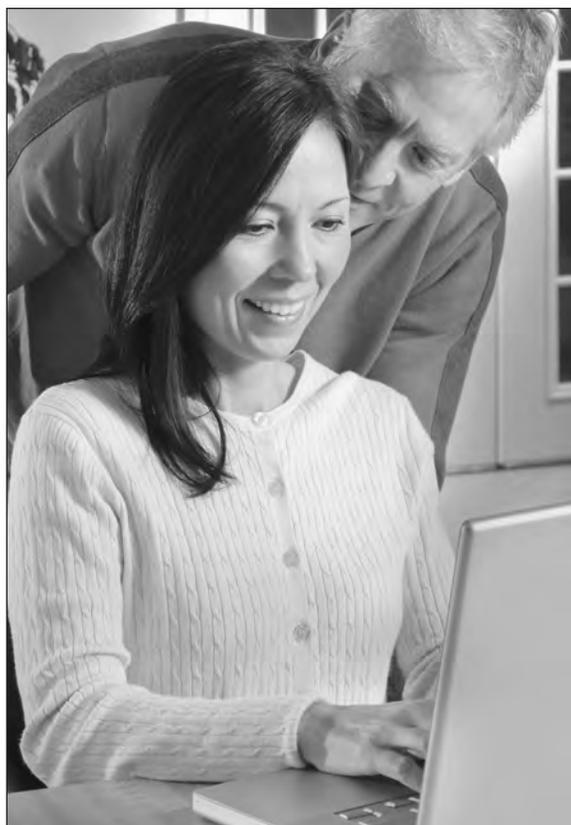


On state highways, passing a snowplow on the right is illegal. On most Oregon highways, snowplows have “wing” plows that stick out more than 8 feet from the right side of the truck. In addition, the snow being plowed or blown off the road can contain rocks and other debris damaging to vehicles.

Trying to pass a plow on the left also presents problems. The road behind the snowplow is in much better condition than the road ahead. If conditions are severe enough to require the attention of a snowplow, you should use extra care when trying to accelerate and pass other vehicles. Ruts in the snow can grab tires and icy conditions can make it difficult to control the vehicle at higher speeds.

Drivers should give winter maintenance vehicles such as plows and sanders a wide berth. They travel slowly but pull over periodically to let traffic pass. The best advice is to stay three car lengths behind and give yourself more time to get where you are going.

**Mobile device users** can view a 2.4-minute video on general ODOT snow removal maintenance practices by scanning this QR code.



## DMV Online Services

# Don't stand in line, go online!

Conduct your DMV business online.

All customers can change their address and report the sale of a vehicle using DMV's online services, and most customers (if stated on the renewal notice) can renew their vehicle registrations online. Save yourself a trip and go online instead!

On the Web go to <https://www.oregondmv.com/online/index.htm>.



### Winter Safety

T R A V E L E R S E A S O N T  
 N B M D H I G H W A Y S O Y O  
 E S R E N T R A P D E I L Y M  
 I M P R O V E M E N T S A B O  
 C N O G E R O P O A U T G S R  
 I U O Y K N A H T O R H R T R  
 F E N T E R P R I S E G A C O  
 F I G D T T O T R Y T I N E W  
 E Z I M R P U O E S N L D J Y  
 E U E A S A T D C T I G E O A  
 G N M N C A U O H E W O S R W  
 T S A A L L I T A M U F B P D  
 P R A T T E N T I O N B O L A  
 T I N O T E L D N E P H J A O  
 D L E I F N A T S A F E T Y R

## PUZZLE FUN

Locate the following ODOT / winter travel related words that appeared in the Winter Roadway Guide introduction Words may appear up, down, diagonal or backwards. Solution on page 11.

ATTENTION  
 CAUTIOUSLY  
 DEPARTMENT  
 EFFICIENT  
 ENTERPRISE  
 FOGLIGHTS  
 GUIDE  
 HIGHWAYS  
 IMPROVEMENTS  
 JOBS  
 LAGRANDE  
 ODOT  
 OREGON  
 PARTNERS  
 PENDLETON

PLAY  
 PROJECTS  
 ROADWAY  
 SAFETY  
 SEASON  
 SMARTPHONES  
 STANFIELD  
 SYSTEM  
 THANKYOU  
 TIRECHAINS  
 TOMORROW  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 TRAVELERS  
 UMATILLA  
 WINTER

## Prevent Drowsy Driving: Driver fatigue can significantly increase the chance of a crash

Living in eastern Oregon typically includes a lot of travel time on state highways for: work; shopping; medical appointments; visiting friends and family; and just getting out to enjoy the beautiful region.

“Too much time behind the wheel without proper rest breaks, however, can lead to drowsy driving and tragedy,” says ODOT spokesperson Tom Strandberg.

ODOT offers the following information about preventing drowsy driving that may just save your life, or the lives of others.

According to the national sleep foun-

dation, sleepiness or fatigue cause the following:

- Impaired reaction time, judgment and vision
- Problems with information processing and short-term memory
- Decreased performance, vigilance and motivation
- Increased moodiness and aggressive behavior

Signs that should tell a driver to stop and rest:

- Difficulty focusing, frequent blinking, heavy eyelids
- Trouble remembering the last few

miles driven, missing exits or signs

- Yawning repeatedly
- Drifting from lane to lane, tailgating, excessive slowness or speed
- Feeling restless and irritable

When taking prescription or over-the-counter medications, be sure to read all warning labels. Avoid driving if the medication label indicates it may cause drowsiness.

“While coffee is a stimulant, it should not be relied on to keep a driver awake,” Strandberg said. The caffeine jolt from coffee does not kick in until at least one-half hour after it is ingested. “Coffee

might wake you up briefly, but the effects are only temporary and wear off quickly.”

ODOT suggests the following for long trips –

- Take along a companion to help keep alert and to drive if you become tired.

• Schedule rest stops every two hours. While stopped, get out of the vehicle, walk around and stretch. Make sure your are rested before heading back on the road.

**Don't take chances with drowsy driving. Know the signs of fatigue and get the rest you need.**

## Tips for driving safely in fog

Thick fog is a common winter driving hazard. When you are driving in fog, you should slow down to adjust to the reduced visibility. In the most severe situations, a Dense Fog Advisory will be issued if visibility is reduced to less than one-quarter mile. Check [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com) for more information, and follow these safety tips:

- Slow down. Disengage your cruise control. Most crashes occur because the driver is going too fast for weather conditions.
- Use your low beams. High beams will reflect back thick fog, making visibility worse for you and other drivers.
- Keep your car headlights clean. Get in the habit of wiping off your lights at the gas station; that way you're ready for low-visibility conditions.

- Keep the view clear. Avoid fogged windows by regularly using the defroster and windshield wipers. Moisture can build up on the windshield both inside and out; the air conditioning setting will help keep moisture from building up inside.

- Minimize distractions. Turn off the music and don't talk on your cell phone, so you can listen for traffic you cannot see.
- Increase following distance to ensure enough time to stop safely.
- Watch for emergency stops by other vehicles; watch for slow-moving and parked vehicles.
- Use the right edge of the road, white fog line or roadside reflectors as a guide. Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles unless necessary.
- If you pull off the road, pull over as far as possible, turn off your headlights and turn on your hazard lights.

## Use fog lights correctly and safely

With increasing numbers of vehicles on the road with fog or auxiliary lights, state transportation safety officials are reminding people to use vehicle lighting correctly and safely.



"Fog lights are designed to be used at low speeds in fog, heavy mist, snow and other situations where visibility is significantly reduced," said Michele O'Leary, ODOT Vehicle Equipment Standards Program Manager.

Front fog lights are generally aimed and mounted low to increase the illumination directed towards the road surface. However, after sunset and during other low visibility situations, fog lights are required to be turned off when an oncoming vehicle approaches. During normal visibility conditions, fog or auxiliary lights should be turned off. It is not appropriate to drive with fog or auxiliary lights left on all the time.

"When a car is using fog or auxiliary lights, it is visually distracting for oncoming drivers," O'Leary said.

According to Oregon law, fog and/or auxiliary lights must be used like the high beam headlight system of your car. They must be turned off when within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle and within 350 feet when following another vehicle. The color of fog

and/or auxiliary lights is also regulated. Fog lights may be either white or amber (yellow). Rules prohibit other colors such as blue.

If your car is equipped with auxiliary lighting, ODOT recommends knowing where the switches are and how to use them.

If you plan to install fog and/or auxiliary lights as an after market feature, it is important to know that Oregon has adopted federal rules that



all manufacturers must meet. Products must be labeled; anything that is labeled "not for street use" cannot be used on public roadways. Fog and other auxiliary lights must have a separate switch. Fog lights may not be used in lieu of headlights.

For more information on vehicle equipment and standards, visit ODOT's Transportation Safety Web site, [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Veh\\_Equipment.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Veh_Equipment.shtml), or see the Oregon Driver Manual on the DMV Web site, [www.oregondmv.com](http://www.oregondmv.com).



## Winter Driving Can Be Tricky

Winter driving can be tricky and dangerous. Better roads, better cars, and better tires don't take the place of careful driving. Here are a few driving tips from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

### Before your trip

- Give yourself plenty of extra time to get to your destination. Remember that the posted speed limits are set for perfect, dry conditions. Slow down in winter weather.
- Clear all windows of snow, ice, or fog before beginning your trip. Clear any snow off the hood; it may come loose and cover your windshield while you're driving.
- Be sure your tires have enough tread for traction in snow. Good tread also reduces the risk of hydroplaning (skidding on pavement because a film of water on the surface causes the tires to lose contact with it) in rain or puddles on the road. Putting extra weight in the trunk or truck bed may give you better traction, but it may result in some loss of steering control and longer stopping distance.

### On the road

**Wear safety belts!** Child passengers must be restrained in approved child safety seats until they weigh forty pounds or reach the upper weight limit for the car seat in use. Infants must ride rear-facing until they reach both one year of age AND twenty pounds.

Children over forty pounds or who have reached the upper weight limit for their forward-facing car seat must use booster seats to 4'9" tall or age eight and the adult belt fits correctly.

**Drive with low-beam headlights** in snow or fog. Keep your headlights, stoplights, and turn signals clean. Dirty headlights can cut visibility by 50 percent or more.

- Hold the steering wheel firmly and avoid making sudden turns. Use a light touch to correct a skid.
- Keep at least three times the normal following distance from vehicles in front of you on snow or ice. If you are being fol-

lowed too closely, maintain extra distance behind the vehicle ahead so that you can slow down or brake gradually. Plan ahead when approaching intersections to brake smoothly.

- Do not blaze your own trail on unplowed roads or through snowdrifts. You may get stuck.
- When you see deer or other animals ahead, slow down and be ready to stop until you are safely past them.
- Watch out for snowplows and sanders as you round corners and curves. Slow down. Plows and sanders will pull over soon to let traffic by. It is risky to pass on the left of a snowplow because of blowing snow. You should NEVER pass a snowplow on the right because plows blow snow in that direction.

### In case of trouble

- If you start to skid, ease your foot off the accelerator. If you have a manual transmission, push in the clutch. Keep your foot off the brake and steer in the direction the rear of the vehicle is skidding.

- Your owner's manual will usually recommend the braking technique most effective for your car. Information from the National Safety Council indicates that drivers with front- and rear-wheel-drive vehicles with disc or drum brakes should press on the brake pedal with a slow, steady pressure until just before they lock. When you feel them start to lock, ease off until your wheels are rolling, then squeeze again.

- If you hit an unexpected patch of ice, ease up on your accelerator and let your vehicle "roll" through the slippery area.

For more winter driving tips and links to related video messages, go to [www.oregon.gov/odot/com](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/com).

### Mobile device

users can scan this QR code to link directly to a 2.2-minute video featuring ODOT winter maintenance crews.



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# Winter travel safety begins with car care

**Check the coolant (antifreeze); coolant should be flushed and refilled every two years in most vehicles; the recommended mixture is 50/50 antifreeze and distilled water.**

**Replace wiper blades every six months; consider snow blades if the weather dictates and make sure the washers are working properly and the reservoir is filled with solvent.**

**Place all children in the back seat. Oregon law requires child safety seats until they weight 40 pounds or reach the upper weight limit for the carseat. Infants must ride rear-facing until they reach both one year of age AND twenty pounds. Booster seats should then be used for children up to 4'9" tall or age eight and the adult belt fits correctly.**

**Check the battery; if it is three or more years old, it should be tested and replaced if necessary; even a strong battery that can deliver full power at 80 degrees F will have dropped to 65 percent of its output at freezing temperature.**

**Call 511 for road and weather information on state highways; you can also access toll-free within Oregon by dialing (800) 977-ODOT (6368); for those calling from outside the state, the long-distance number, (503) 588-2941, is still available.**

**Check tire depth and tire pressure; tire air pressures decrease in cold weather; if you're planning on driving over mountain passes, purchase correctly sized tire chains, and practice installing them at home, rather than at the roadside when you're knee-deep in snow.**

**Prepare an emergency kit and put it in your vehicle now; include a pair of gloves, a pair of boots, a wool blanket, a flashlight, an ice scraper, high-energy snacks, first aid kit, jumper cables, a spare tire and jack, and a bag of sand or grit for traction.**

## Wear Safety Belts Every Trip

Safety belts and child safety seats save lives. Oregon Department of Transportation's Safety Division offers tips for using safety belts and child safety seats properly, and explains recent changes in safety seat laws. Buckle up. No excuses - it's the Way to Go!

For more information and a link to a 3-minute video explaining Oregon's safety belt and child seat laws visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/safety-belts.shtml>

## Practice Chaining Up...

In Oregon, there are times when you may be required to use chains on snowy or icy roads. It's important to learn how to install your chains before bad weather strikes.

Chaining up is good for both you and other drivers, especially on mountain roads. Travelers who wait until the last minute to put on chains can block lanes, delaying other drivers and making it difficult for crews to sand and plow the road. You'll do your part to keep traffic moving by putting your chains on early.

It's a lot easier to put chains on for the first time when you don't have to struggle to read the instructions alongside a snowy road. Practice installing your chains at home when the weather is fair. Then when road conditions require chains, you'll already know how to use them.

Here are some tips on chaining up and driving with chains:

- Check your vehicle operator's manual for the right type and size of chains to use. Then follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Ensure chains are the proper size. Don't deflate tires to install chains.
- Don't wait until you lose control of your vehicle before chaining up.

- Pull over to a safe and level area to mount or remove chains.
- Carry a waterproof tarp or plastic sheet to help keep you dry.
- Keep children and pets safe in your car to avoid distraction and injury.
- Pull over in a safe place and retighten your tire chains after you have driven a short distance.
- Pull over and stop immediately if any part of your chain fails or comes loose.
- Don't drive faster than 30 miles per hour when using chains. Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Avoid spinning or locking your wheels.

Remember: you can slide even with chains, so drive carefully and slowly.

**Mobile device users** – scan this QR code to go to a 10 minute video on chaining up. Check out all ODOT winter related driving tips and videos at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/>.



# Wintertime Check List

Use this handy checklist to make sure you're prepared every time you take a trip in Oregon's winter wonderland.

- Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- Paper towels
- Tools: jack, lug wrench, shovel
- Chains or traction tires
- Flares
- Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Cell phone and car adaptor
- Rechargeable flashlight
- First aid kit
- Matches or lighter
- Battery jumper cables
- Extra food and water
- Pocket knife
- Extra washer fluid
- Highway Map



# BRAKES

**WE DO IT RIGHT, WE DO IT COMPLETE**



CALIPER ASSEMBLY



WE REPLACE: Caliper, Piston Seal, Brake Pad & Plate, Return Spring, Caliper Housing, Brake Shoe, Wheel Cylinder Assembly, Secondary Shoe, Secondary Spring, Wheel Cylinder Assembly, Secondary Shoe.

- Do your brakes grab?
- Do your brakes squeal when you step on the pedal?
- Does your vehicle pull when you apply the brakes?
- Do you hear a grinding noise when you step on the brakes?
- Is your brake pedal spongy or maybe too hard?

REAR DRUM BRAKE ASSEMBLY



WE REPLACE: Primary Shoe, Secondary Shoe, Return Spring, Shoe Hold-Down Parts, Adjuster Lever Spring, Wheel Cylinder Assembly, Secondary Shoe.

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TREAD MAY VARY FROM PHOTO - SOME SIZES AVAILABLE ONLY IN B/W

## MOUNTAIN

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TREAD DESIGN MAY VARY FROM PHOTO

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OUR BEST WINTER RADIAL SUV/PICKUP TIRE



FREE WARRANTY

## WINTERCAT RADIAL SST

- HIGH TRACTION TREAD DESIGN
- M & S RATIO
- SMOOTH QUIET RIDE

FREE WARRANTY

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PINNED FOR STUDS

## MUD TERRAIN RADIAL SXT

- OUTLINED WHITE LETTERS • STEEL BELTED CONSTRUCTION

• Great looking white letters.  
 • A deep traction tread design.  
 • Steel belted radial construction.  
 • Pinned for studs for winter driving.  
 • Siping for greater wet weather traction.  
 • Rugged open lugs for great off road performance.

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## OBSERVE

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When driving, stopping applied to the tire, the road surface as shown in a high resistive force AND ICE TRACTION.

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\$50.01 - \$100.00	\$15.00
\$100.01 - \$250.00	\$25.00
\$250.01 - \$500.00	\$50.00
\$500.01 - \$1,500.00	\$75.00
\$1,500.01 - \$2,500.00	\$150.00
OVER \$2,500.00	1/3 OF BALANCE

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- HEAVY DUTY CASING
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WHICH BATTERY IS RIGHT FOR YOU? Different vehicles require different cranking amps. We'll make sure the battery you get is the right one for you.

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50

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TIRE SHOULDER WEAR?**

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ALIGNMENT**

**28<sup>50</sup>**



**THRUST  
ALIGNMENT**

**56<sup>25</sup>**



**4 WHEEL  
ALIGNMENT  
(SHIMS INCLUDED)**

**83<sup>50</sup>**

**EVERY CAR SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE A THRUST ALIGNMENT. IT RELATES ALL 4 WHEELS TO A COMMON CENTER LINE TO INSURE MAXIMUM TIRE LIFE.**

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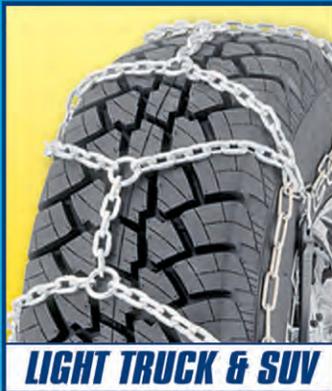
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CHOICE!**

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**25<sup>95</sup>**

#### **PASSENGER CHAIN RETURN PROGRAM**

If you don't use your passenger car chains, return them for a full refund after the last legal date for studded tires.

*(Does not apply to the Spikes Spider traction device)*

## LES SCHWAB'S WINTER CHECKLIST

**SIPING**



**WIPER  
BLADES**



**TRACTION TIRES**



**SNOW WHEELS**



**BATTERIES**



**CHAINS**



**STUDED TIRES**

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AS CASH O.A.C.**



## Transportation Construction Update

*continued from page 2*

important projects. In June maintenance crews chip sealed over 30 miles of U.S. 30 (Central Oregon Highway) west of Vale to help preserve and extend the useful life of the existing pavement. State forces also resurfaced about six miles of highway on OR 207 (Diagonal Road in Hermiston) between Townsend Road and U.S. 730. In addition to the paving work, ODOT installed a new pedestrian controlled rapid flash beacon at a crosswalk in Hermiston near Good Sheppard Hospital. The strobe light effect of the beacon mounted on the crosswalk sign helps alert motorists that someone is in or near the crosswalk. On OR 7 west of Baker City ODOT widened a section of highway to build a much needed vehicle pull out area. A section of U.S. 30 south of Huntington that had been turned into a roller coaster ride by slide activity was also rebuilt to create a safer, smoother surface.

Bridge maintenance crews were on the job this summer constructing repairs to the U.S. 30 Burnt River Lime Bridge north of Huntington and replacing the OR 332 Hudson Bay Canal Bridge near Milton-Freewater with a 30-foot long box culvert.

These represent only a portion of the numerous transportation projects constructed over the past 12 months. More



ODOT Bridge Maintenance crew members lower the last section of the Hudson Bay Canal Culvert into place along Oregon Highway 332 near Milton-Freewater. Six sections were fitted together make up the 30-foot-long culvert.

are scheduled for next year.

### 2012 PROJECTS:

Listed below is just a sampling of some of the major projects planned for the 2012 construction season.

**U.S. 730 bridge and highway safety improvements, U.S. 30 Bridge replacements, OR 82 highway and bridge projects, OR 11 and Athena downtown pavement upgrades, and more:** In 2012 two multi-year projects along OR 82 in Union County that are shutting down for the winter will resume next spring. One is the replacement of the Indian Creek Bridge two miles south

of Elgin that will result in single lane travel over the structure during part of the 2012 construction season. The other project along this route near mile post 31, west of Minam, is realigning the highway to eliminate an old viaduct structure. This work will also result in single lane travel through the area.

Safety improvements on U.S. 730 will widen the highway and add turn lanes to sections of the route between Irrigon and Umatilla. This portion of U.S. 730 is a designated Safety Corridor and the upgrades will improve traffic safety through the area. The Umatilla River Bridge in Umatilla on this same route will be repaired next year resulting in single lane travel over the structure and some nighttime closures during concrete bridge deck pours. Also in Umatilla County, the section of OR 11 between Athena and Milton-Freewater will be resurfaced. Athena's Main Street (OR 334) will be resurfaced and a 10-mile chip seal will be applied to OR 204 (Tollgate Highway) between OR 11 and mile post 10.7.

On U.S. 30 north of Huntington the Burnt River UPRR Bridge will be replaced, resulting in detours on I-84 from some travelers. Along another section of U.S. 30 (East Idaho Avenue) in Ontario, the highway will be resurfaced between S.W. Fourth Street and the Snake River, with some intersection upgrades constructed in the area.

**2012 Projects on Local Roads:** Cities and counties will again be receiving funds through ODOT and the Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act passed by the 2009 State Legislature to construct dozens of projects on local street networks. Contractors, along with city and county crews will be working on local routes in or near Baker City, Union, Nyssa, Vale, Heppner, Milton-Freewater, Echo, Enterprise, Joseph, John Day and others areas.

The projects listed are only a sampling of those planned for next year. More information and safety reminders about 2012 highway work zones will be relayed through the media prior to the start of the construction season.



In 2012 Athena's Main Street (Oregon Highway 334) will be resurfaced with new asphalt paving.



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# Use extreme caution if stranded along highways

## ODOT, OSP remind motorists to stay safe along side of road

The Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon State Police advise travelers to be extra cautious when stranded or stopped along the side of the road, especially during poor weather conditions.

"Driving along Oregon highways in inclement weather can be challenging, but when people stop along the side of the road and get out of their vehicles for any reason, extreme precautions need to be taken by both those on the side of the road and nearby drivers," said ODOT Region 5 Public Affairs Specialist Tom Strandberg.

There are times when travelers are compelled to stop along the side of a roadway: to repair a flat tire; put on tire chains; or assist a stranded motorist. Unfortunately, people are often seriously

injured or killed while outside of their vehicles along state highways.

"People need to take the time to review all options before stopping and getting out of their vehicles, especially when icy roads or limited visibility create hazardous conditions," Strandberg said.

Numerous times over the past few years Good Samaritans who have stopped to help at a crash scene have been seriously injured or killed on Oregon highways when other motorists have lost control of their vehicles on slick roads.

"It is a terrible tragedy when good people who are trying to help others end up worse off than those they are trying to assist," said Strandberg.

In some cases, especially during winter storms, the best way to help is to get to a phone as soon as possible and report the incident, giving clear directions so emer-



gency responders can arrive quickly. Just don't talk on a cell phone while driving.

### Before you pull off the road

If you have a flat tire or need to stop along the highway, check the following before pulling off of the road.

- Note mile markers and landmarks to provide to emergency service providers when calling for help.

- Make sure there is enough room along the road shoulder to pull completely off of the road.

- Never stop in the roadway or on bridges, avoid areas with narrow shoulders.

- If you are compelled to stop and help a stranded motorist during poor weather conditions, take careful note of the surrounding area, highway and weather conditions. It is often safer for the stranded motorists, other travelers and yourself to call for help, rather than stopping in an area that could create more hazards. Note the color of the vehicle, landmarks and mile markers to provide to 911 operators.

### If you have to stop

If there is no option other than stopping along the side of the highway, consider the following tips.

- Pull as far off the right side of the road as possible, avoid stopping along the left

side of the road or center median areas.

- Turn on emergency flashers. Check your mirrors and look to rear to make sure it is safe to get out of your vehicle. Face traffic when setting out flares or reflective triangles.

- Flares and other warning devices should be placed far enough away from the vehicle to give oncoming traffic time to react.

- Stay buckled up inside your vehicle and keep all passengers buckled if you are stranded.

- Turn and lock the steering wheel away from the travel lanes so the vehicle will not be pushed into traffic if struck from behind.

- Use extreme caution when outside the vehicle to put on chains, change tire, etc. If available, wear a reflective vest or bright clothing.

- Don't extend legs or body onto roadway while working on vehicle.

- Familiarize yourself with the surrounding area and note location of steep embankments, drop-offs beyond railings, water hazards or other dangerous conditions.

- When outside the vehicle, carefully watch the road and plan safe escape routes in case you need to move quickly to avoid out of control traffic.

## Traction tire options

Oregon state law allows motorists to use studded tires from Nov. 1 through March 31. Because studded tires damage Oregon highways, ODOT encourages drivers to consider using chains or non-studded traction tires.

Studless traction tires that meet Rubber Manufacturers Association standards for use in severe snow conditions carry a special symbol on the tire sidewall: a three-peaked mountain and snowflake. Research shows these tires provide better traction than studded tires on bare pavement.

### Studded tire facts

You can use studded tires in Oregon from Nov. 1 through March 31. Driving with studded tires before Nov. 1 or after March 31 is a Class C violation and carries a \$190 fine.

Research shows that studded tires are more effective than all-weather tires on icy roads, but are less effective in most other conditions because they may reduce traction between the road and the tire.

Oregon spends more than \$11 million a year fixing roads and bridges damaged by studded tires.

When it rains, water collects in the pavement ruts caused by studded tires and creates dangerous driving conditions. In cold weather, that water can freeze and cause extra-slippery roads.

## Alternatives to studded tires

### Chains and chain-like devices

Chains are more effective than studded tires and are becoming easier to use. Link chains may not be recommended for use on some types of vehicles; check your owner's manual.

### Other traction tires

Traction tires, other than studded tires, provide increased traction in winter conditions.

They work about as well as studded tires on ice, but work better than studded tires or regular tires in most other winter conditions. These other traction tires cause no more damage to road surfaces than regular tires.

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# See and be seen in low light

Dark colored clothing and coats may look chic, but at night or on cloudy days, they can make pedestrians almost invisible. Every year in Oregon, the majority of pedestrian fatalities occur at night or in low-light hours. In 2010, 74 percent of the fatal pedestrian crashes occurred during low-light conditions. More than half of the pedestrians killed were wearing dark clothing and were not visible.

Improving visibility means improving safety. That's why the Oregon Department of Transportation is urging pedestrians to "see and be seen" this fall. Wearing light colors or reflective clothing is one of the simplest things pedestrians can do to keep themselves safe, and to help out, ODOT's Transportation Safety Division is giving away reflective safety sashes and arm bands that people can wear over their clothes.

**The bright yellow sashes and bands are being distributed** in limited numbers to safety groups in communities statewide as part of a campaign to improve pedestrian visibility and safety. Request a reflective arm band or sash from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (Sharon White, 503-823-7100); Commute Options (50 SW Bond St., Bend); Rogue Valley Transportation District (Mike Bowman, 3200 Crater Lake Ave., Medford, 541-608-2420); Eugene Public Works (Lindsay Selser,



541-682-5094); or in eastern Oregon, ODOT Region 5 (Traffic Safety Coordinator Patty McClure, 541-963-1387).

ODOT's Transportation Safety Division is also placing advertisements



on buses around the state encouraging Oregonians to be visible. Motorists and pedestrians are also encouraged to follow these safety tips:

## Pedestrians

- Wear bright or reflective clothing or shoes when walking at night. Avoid dark clothes; drivers can't avoid what they can't see.
- Stay sober; walking while impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing the street.
- Watch out for motorists' blind spots.
- Remain alert! Don't assume that cars are going to stop.
- Be aware of vehicles around you. Make eye contact with motorists before crossing paths.
- Use crosswalks and sidewalks whenever possible.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing. Watch for turning cars.

## Motorists

- Watch for pedestrians especially at night.
- Expect and slow for pedestrians in popular walking areas and near crosswalks.
- Drive at cautious speeds in rainy weather and in low-light areas.

# Car Care Critical for Winter Driving Safety

## Instrument Panel Review

Every time you start your car they glow to greet you, but usually, after a few seconds of engine operation, they fade away—hopefully not to be seen again until the next engine start.

"Motorists need to be aware of the critical 'big three' warning lights, which include those that monitor engine oil pressure, engine coolant temperature, and vehicle charging system," says Tom Strandberg, ODOT Public Affairs. "To reduce the chances of vehicle damage or a roadside breakdown, these warning lights require prompt and proper action when they illuminate."

When the ignition key is first turned to the ON position, all of the vehicle's warning lights should illuminate. The "big three" lights typically remain on until the engine is started and running. If a warning light fails to illuminate at this time, have the related system checked out by an auto repair facility.

Once the engine is running, all the warning lights should go out within a few seconds. If any light remains illuminated, consult your owner's manual.

The most common vehicle deficiencies

include weak batteries, worn or damaged wiper blades, clogged air filters, low washer fluid, dirty or low motor oil, and low anti-freeze levels.

"Breakdowns are most often preventable by simply ensuring that your vehicle is regularly maintained," Strandberg said. "The state of health and durability of things like batteries, fluid levels, and tire conditions all come into question especially during the winter season when extremely cold temperatures can put even the most reliable devices to the test."

## Winter Car Care

The Winter Car Care 12-point inspection includes:

- Battery check for loose cables and corroded terminals
- Anti-freeze check for strength in the radiator overflow reservoir
- Oil level check with the vehicle's dipstick
- Brake fluid level check
- Power steering fluid level check
- Automatic transmission fluid level check

- Inspection of all belts and hoses
- Inspection of the air filter
- Windshield washer fluid level check
- Inspection of windshield wipers
- Light and turn signal inspection
- Inspection of tire tread wear and inflation if necessary



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Launched in May 2000, TripCheck.com has become a valuable resource for travelers in and around Oregon. Throughout 2010, we're celebrating its 10th Anniversary and looking forward to enhanced services, all aimed at making travel in Oregon a safe, enjoyable experience.

### TRIP CHECK ON TWITTER

Twitter allows you to receive up-to-date information on highway conditions from TripCheck through a variety of mediums including text



message to your mobile device. To learn more click the Twitter link in the upper right corner of the TripCheck home page. From there you can select the highway(s) you would like to follow.

Please remember that Oregon law limits the use of cell phones while driving. Put safety first. **Do NOT use this Twitter service while driving.**

### TRIPCHECK.COM MOBILE

Oregon motorists already know how valuable the road condition and incident Web site, TripCheck.com is. It's also easy to access from mobile communication units, such as cellular phones and Blackberries. Users can surf to the site and find:

- Traffic alerts, road closures

- Incident information, including shots from cameras within three miles of the incident
- Road and weather conditions
- Traveler services, such as hotels, restaurants and attractions, with direct links to phone numbers

- Cameras, including the ability to create a "camera favorites" page

The site also includes the Portland speed map. Give it a try!

### ROAD SIDE CAMERAS

Before you leave, get an up-close look at conditions at www.TripCheck.com . From mountain passes to downtown interchanges, see what's happening before you head out the door. Use the 'custom cam' image page to customize a page of your favorite camera shots for quick, easy viewing.

Several new camera sites have been added in eastern Oregon over past few years.

### MORE WINTER DRIVING TIPS AND SAFETY VIDEOS ON THE WEB

For more information on winter driving safety, check out the ODOT Winter Driving Tips and Information Web page at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml> . You'll find over a dozen safety tips, plus links to videos on how to install tire chains, winter truck safety and more. The next time you're planning to go out in nasty weather, take a few minutes to check out these helpful hints, tips and videos.

### LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS?

Visit ODOT on the web: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT)

If you have an opinion, comment or question, or if you need personal assistance with an ODOT issue, we are very interested in hearing from you. Please feel free to email or call us at [ODOT.comments@odot.state.or.us](mailto:ODOT.comments@odot.state.or.us) or 541.388.6180.

## Solution to Puzzle

on page 3

T R A V E L E R S F E A S O N T  
 N I I H I G H W A Y S O Y O  
 F S R E N T R A P D E T I + M  
 I M P R O V E M E N T S A I O  
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- (Over, Down, Direction)
- ATTENTION (3, 13, E)
  - CAUTIOUSLY (5, 11, NE)
  - DEPARTMENT (10, 3, SW)
  - EFFICIENT (1, 9, N)
  - ENTERPRISE (2, 7, E)
  - FOGLIGHTS (12, 12, N)
  - GUIDE (1, 11, NE)
  - HIGHWAYS (5, 2, E)
  - IMPROVEMENTS (1, 4, E)
  - JOB (13, 14, N)
  - LAGRANDE (13, 3, S)
  - ODOT (8, 11, N)
  - OREGON (7, 5, W)
  - PARTNERS (9, 3, W)
  - PENDLETON (11, 14, W)
  - PLAY (14, 12, S)
  - PROJECTS (14, 12, N)
  - ROADWAY (15, 15, N)
  - SAFETY (9, 15, E)
  - SEASON (9, 1, E)
  - SMARTPHONES (2, 12, NE)
  - STANFORD (9, 15, W)
  - SYSTEM (10, 7, S)
  - THANKYOU (9, 6, W)
  - TIRECHAINS (9, 6, S)
  - TOMORROW (15, 1, S)
  - TRANSPORTATION (1, 14, NE)
  - TRAVELERS (1, 1, E)
  - UMATILLA (11, 12, W)
  - WINTER (11, 11, N)

# MOVE OVER LAW

When approaching the rear of a stopped emergency vehicle which is on the roadside with emergency lights activated, Oregon Law requires drivers to move over into another lane if one is available.

Law enforcement, highway workers and emergency responders know all too well of the dangers of working along the side of the road, especially during an emergency.

"Police officers understand these dangers because highway-related incidents are taking more officers lives than ever before," says Oregon State Police Lieutenant Gregg Hastings. "That is why Oregon is one of many states that has a 'Move Over' law to help protect emergency responders working on our highways."

If you can not move over into another lane safely (or if you are on a road with only one lane in each direction), you must slow down and give the emergency vehicle as much room as is safely possible. The fine for this violation is currently between \$287 and \$400.

Protect those who protect you.

**MOVE OVER. IT'S THE LAW.**

move over

It's the law!

Transportation Safety Oregon Department of Transportation

OREGON STATE POLICE

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

OREGON STATE POLICE

Slow Down. The Way to Go.

# Snow Zones Ahead

## Know and follow Oregon's Minimum Chain Requirements

Chart shows minimum chain-up configurations for when "Chains Required" signs are displayed  
(per Oregon Administrative Rule 734, Division 17)

For more information, go to [TripCheck.com](http://TripCheck.com) on the Web

### LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES

One tire on each side of the primary drive axle.



Rear-Wheel Drive



Front-Wheel Drive

### TOWING

Chains must be on one tire on each side of one axle of a trailer that is equipped with a brake.



One tire each side.



One tire each side.

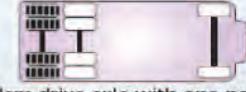


One tire on each side of one axle.

### MEDIUM DUTY VEHICLES



Single Drive Axle: One tire on each side of the drive axle.



Tandem drive axle with one powered by the drive line: Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

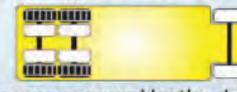


If both axles are powered by the drive line: one tire on each side of each drive axle.



One single-wheel axle and one dual-wheel axle: must have chains on one tire on each side of the dual wheel axle

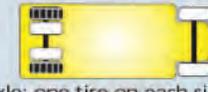
### SOLO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES



If both axles are powered by the drive line: one tire on each side of each drive axle.



Tandem drive axle with one powered by the drive line: Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.



Single drive axle: one tire on each side of the drive axle.

### TRUCK TRACTOR SEMI TRAILER



Two tires, one on each side of any axle.

### TRUCK TRACTOR SEMI TRAILER



Two tires, one on each side of any axle. Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

### TRUCK TRACTOR SEMI TRAILER



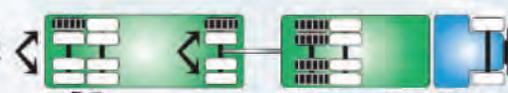
Two tires, one on each side of any axle. If both axles are powered by the drive line: one tire on each side of each drive axle.

### TRUCK TRAILER



One tire, either side, either axle.

### TRUCK TRAILER



Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

### TRUCK TRAILER



One tire, either side, either axle. If both axles are powered by the drive line: one tire on each side of each drive axle.

### SET OF DOUBLES



Two tires, one on each side of any axle.

### SET OF DOUBLES



One tire, either side, either axle. Two tires, one on each side of any axle. Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

### SET OF DOUBLES



One tire, either side, either axle. Two tires, one on each side of any axle. If both axles are powered by the drive line: one tire on each side of each drive axle.

### TANDEM-DRIVE AXLE "B" & "C" TRAINS



Two tires, one on each side of any axle. Two tires, one on each side of any axle. Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

### TANDEM-DRIVE AXLE "B" & "C" TRAINS



Two tires, one on each side of any axle. Two tires, one on each side of any axle. If both axles are powered by the drive line: one tire on each side of each drive axle.

Don't Take Chances - Chain up and Travel Safely

The Way to Go — Oregon Department of Transportation

