slow down

It's the law!

Transportation Safety
Oregon Department of Transportation

Slow Down. ***The Way to Go.***

737-3462 (6/07) # 330541

Control the speed.
Control the damage.

**SLOW DOWN.
IT'S THE LAW.**

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In Oregon, speeding is the number one contributor to death and injury in traffic crashes. It's a deadly problem that takes innocent lives every year.

To help reduce the number of serious crashes, the police in Oregon are serious about slowing drivers down. They're out on the roads with new technology that helps pinpoint cars that are going too fast, and they're ticketing drivers.

Speeding tickets are expensive – faster speeds mean bigger tickets. If you exceed 30 miles per hour above the posted speed, your license can be suspended for 30 days in addition to a $679 fine. If you travel at 100 miles per hour or higher, you will receive an $1103 fine in addition to a 30- to 90-day driver's license suspension. You may also be arrested for reckless driving. So slow down.

A crash course on speeding.

Don't exceed posted speed limits – they're there for a reason. Also consider the weather and road conditions, and slow down accordingly. Speeding shortens the amount of time you have to react to an emergency. But you can give yourself more reaction time and help avoid a serious crash by slowing down.

One of the most dangerous combinations is high speed and corners. The largest percentage of speed-related traffic deaths occur when a vehicle leaves the roadway, often on a corner, and it crashes into a large fixed object, such as a tree or rock. So watch for posted speeds and slow down going into curves.

Speeding also exponentially increases the forces on the body in a crash. That means that even a small increase in speed – say five to 10 miles per hour – can mean the difference between life and death for you or the loved ones in your vehicle.

For safety ratings, vehicle seatbelts and airbags are crash tested at 35 to 40 miles per hour, not 55 or 65 miles per hour. The human body simply cannot travel from a high speed to zero abruptly without damage. That's why many people in higher-speed crashes die on impact even while belted.

Avoid the high price of speeding.

Speed-related crashes cost Oregon taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year. But that's not the biggest cost.

Last year, nearly 500 people in Oregon and 40,000 people in the U.S. died in crashes. Statewide, 40 percent of the people who died in speed-related crashes were innocent victims, not the speeding drivers. They were sons, daughters, wives, husbands, parents, grandparents and friends.

That's far too big a price to pay for getting there "a little faster." Avoid the ticket and save lives – slow down.