



*Oregon Department of Transportation*

# NEWS RELEASE

## Northwestern Oregon: Region 2

*Clatsop, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Linn, Lincoln, Benton and Lane Counties*

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Nov. 7, 2006

For More Information: Joe Harwood, 541-726-2442, or Lou Torres, 503-986-2880

11-363-R2

## **ODOT mobilizing extra people, resources to reopen North Coast highways**

**TILLAMOOK** – The Oregon Department of Transportation is marshalling additional people, resources and equipment from the Willamette Valley to help clear mudslides and repair damaged northwest Oregon highways following the heavy rain over the past few days.

To augment District 1 maintenance and repair crews already working to reopen Highways 6, 26, 53 and 101, ODOT has sent personnel and equipment from District 3 (Salem, McMinnville), District 4 (Corvallis, Ona Beach) and District 2A (Hillsboro, Clatskanie) to the North Coast.

“Highway 6 is a vital lifeline for the folks in and around Tillamook,” said District 1 Manager Dean Fuller. “We understand how important that highway is, and we are pulling crews from all over the Willamette Valley to help get it back open.”

OR 6 remains closed from milepost 13 to milepost 39 because of multiple slides and high water. ODOT crews are working from both ends of the highway to clear debris, unclog culverts and assess damage to the roadway. Culverts clogged with debris exacerbate the situation, forcing fast-moving water, along with mud, trees and rocks, across the highway in several locations between milepost 19 and milepost 39. The swift water is also eroding highway shoulders. In some areas, the Wilson River is scouring the highway shoulder. That erosion is undermining the asphalt in multiple locations.

ODOT geo-hydro engineers are traveling to Tillamook County to inspect damaged highways

and determine what repair work needs to be done to make the roads safe to reopen. Because of the extent and breadth of the damage, it is unclear when Highway 6 will be fully reopened.

On U.S. 101, at mudslide at milepost 38 near the Clatsop-Tillamook county line is undermining the highway. ODOT crews are on the scene clearing debris and flagging traffic through in one lane.

ODOT crews are continuing to work on the following North Coast highways:

### **In Clatsop County**

- Highway 53 is open except for the area between milepost 3 and milepost 5. That section of highway remains closed due to a sunken grade. Highway 53 in Tillamook County is open.
- Slides on U.S. 26 in Clatsop County are slowing traffic. A slide has occurred at South Fork Quartz Creek, 5 miles east of Elsie. Westbound lane is affected. Traffic is being flagged through the area. Expect delays. Another slide at milepost 20 near Elsie is impacting traffic. Flaggers are escorting traffic through the slide area.
- On U.S. 101 south of Seaside in the Beerman Creek area, the road is open and there are no restrictions.

### **In Lincoln County**

- Highway 229 is closed about 9 miles south of intersection with U.S. 101 due to high water.

ODOT urges motorists to use extreme caution in coastal areas. Drivers should be wary of mud slides, falling trees and standing water on highways.

**##ODOT##**