



Sept. 4, 2009

For more information:

Christine Miles, 503-731-8265, Christine.L.Miles@odot.state.or.us

Kimberly Dinwiddie, 503-731-8281, Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Labor Day weekend: Be alert, drive slow in work zones

ODOT highway projects will pause starting noon Friday through midnight Monday night

With the busy travel time of the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Oregon Department of Transportation will suspend most construction work that impacts lanes between **noon Friday, Sept. 4, and midnight Monday night, Sept. 7.**

Oregon is experiencing the highest volume of highway construction in more than 50 years. Although roadwork will pause for the holiday, work zones will still be marked and require slower speeds. Motorists should also be aware of the possibility of highway shoulder closures or construction activity behind barriers during the weekend. Even when workers are not present, **all work zone speed limits still apply and fines double.**

"While enjoying the last days of summer with family and friends this holiday weekend, know before you go, plan ahead and be safe," said Jason Tell, ODOT Region 1 Manager. "Please be alert to work zones and slow down." When traveling this weekend *Know Before You Go* by visiting www.tripcheck.com.

Please slow down, wear seatbelts, and do not drink and drive! Of the 11 people who died on Oregon roads last Labor Day weekend, nine deaths were alcohol or drug related, according to Oregon State Police. To reduce crashes, injuries and associated deaths during the weekend, OSP, county sheriff offices and city police agencies will step up enforcement efforts Friday afternoon through Monday as part of the national "[Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.](#)" campaign.

On average during the Labor Day holiday weekends over the past five years, alcohol- and drug-related crashes made up about six percent of the total crashes, but more than half of the fatal crashes.

##ODOT##