



**space out**

*It's the law!*



**Transportation Safety**  
Oregon Department of Transportation

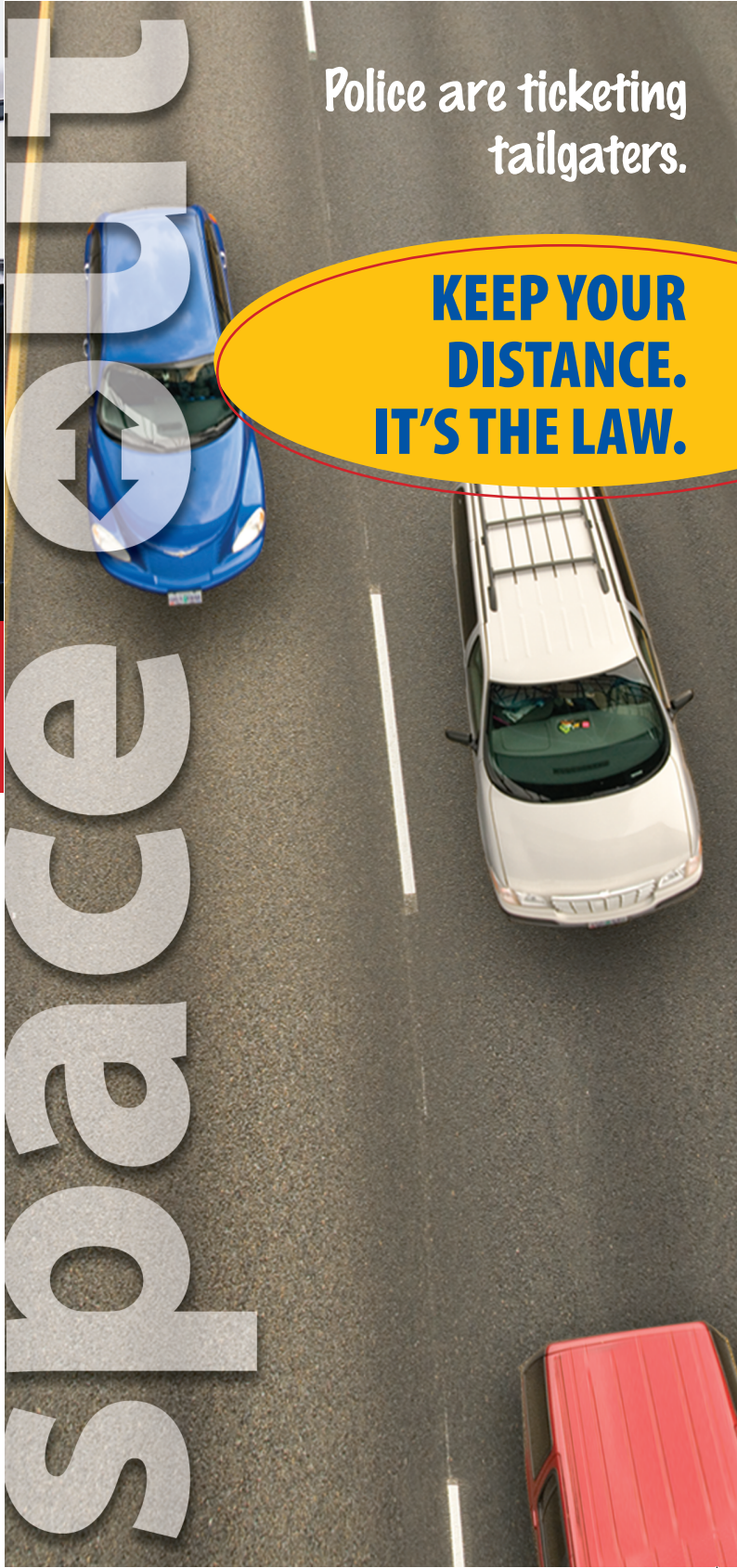


**Slow Down. The Way to Go.**

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Police are ticketing  
tailgaters.

**KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE.  
IT'S THE LAW.**



# space out

**The police in Oregon are searching out tailgaters using new, improved laser technology. The hunt is on, because tailgating is the number one cause of traffic crashes in Oregon.**

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. So slow down. You could save your money and much more.

## **Slow down and stay back.**

With more cars on the road and more people in a hurry, tailgating is a big problem. Rear-end crashes are very common and the main cause is people following too closely. Tailgating drivers are unable to stop before hitting the vehicle in front of them.

The solution is to maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. This gives you a better view of the road, and the other traffic, so that you can anticipate problems and have more time to react.

But what does "safe distance" mean? At a minimum, you should allow two seconds of space between your car and the one in front of you. Four seconds is an even better idea. Here's how to track your following time:

- ◆ **Notice when the rear end of the vehicle in front of you passes a sign, pole or other stationary object.**



**FOLLOW THE 2-4 SECOND RULE**



- ◆ **Begin counting seconds: "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two."**
- ◆ **If you pass the stationary object before you finish counting at least two seconds, you are following too closely. That's your signal to slow down and drop back.**
- ◆ **Test again to see if you are back far enough.**

## **Leave more space or pay the price.**

Tailgating is dangerous and against the law – it can cost you up to \$355 in fines.

The police now have the technology to catch tailgaters. A new laser can show officers whether drivers are following too closely. This upgraded technology can tell how many feet and how many seconds you are from the bumper of the car in front of you. It can also determine what role tailgating may have played in a crash.

The new lasers can also measure your speed – so you could get a speeding ticket AND a tailgating ticket.

## **The costs of following too closely.**

Tailgating is intimidating, irritating to other drivers and potentially deadly. We all pay the price in increased crashes, damage to vehicles, the drain on public safety resources, increased injuries and loss of life.

That's why tailgaters pay up to \$355 in fines. So slow down and keep a minimum of two seconds of travel time between you and the car ahead.

You could be saving much more than money.