



**KNOW
BEFORE
YOU GO**

SUMMER NEWS PACKET

SUMMER TRAVEL NEWS PACKET 2026



THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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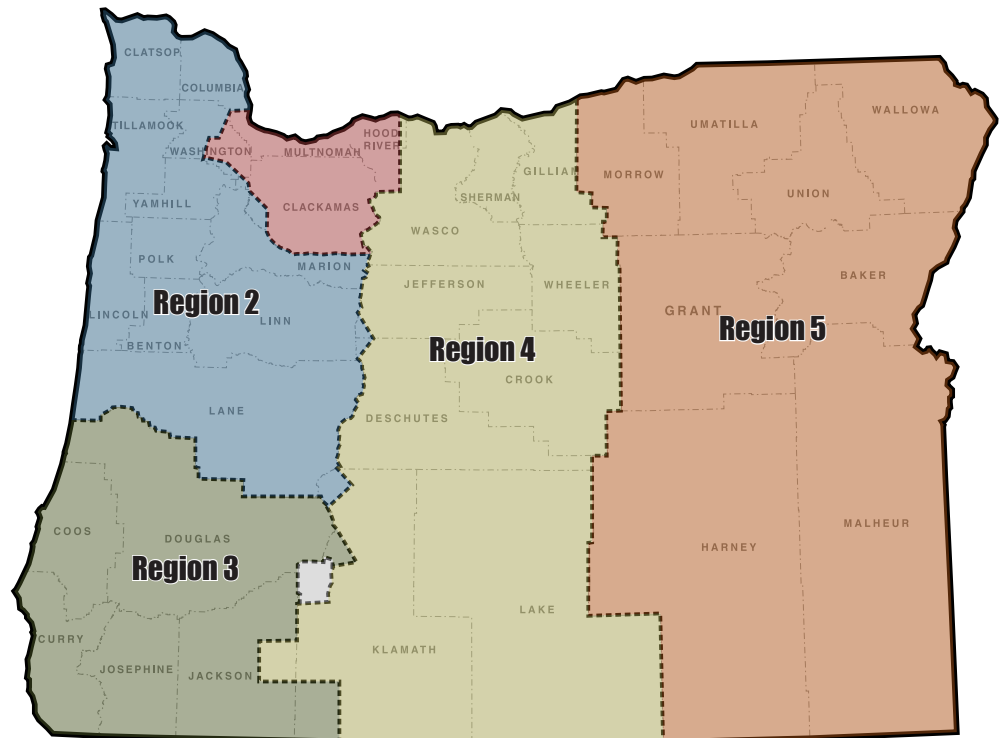
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General ODOT information

AskODOT

1-888-275-6368

[Ask ODOT online](#)

Sign up for FlashAlerts

Go to FlashAlert.net and sign up for alerts from the Oregon Department of Transportation on road conditions, highway closures and incidents. You can also get information on state office closures by signing up for notifications from the Department of Administrative Services.

Social media*

On X /Twitter (@oregondot):

[X.com/OregonDOT](https://twitter.com/OregonDOT)

On Facebook:

facebook.com/OregonDOT

On Instagram (@oregondot):

instagram.com/oregondot

**Social media accounts are generally staffed weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. except in extreme conditions.*

ODOT photos and videos:

flickr.com/oregondot/

youtube.com/OregonDOT

Summer Photo Resources (Flickr):

flic.kr/s/aHsmVFymRc

Summer Video Playlist (YouTube):

tinyurl.com/47bsdbe3

Photos provided through ODOT's official Flickr or Dropbox accounts, as well as those provided in official news releases, are permissible for use by news agencies.



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Reporting hazards

Oregon's weather can change quickly and without warning. For road conditions in Oregon, call 511 or 800-977-ODOT (6368). Outside Oregon, dial 503-588-2941. Reports are updated continuously and available 24 hours a day.

Visit TripCheck.com for information on road and weather conditions, incidents and traffic delays. Links to cameras on many mountain passes and major routes give real-time views of road conditions. The site also provides links to bus, train and airport information, rest areas and other traveler services.

For questions about road maintenance or other issues, contact ODOT by phone at 888-ASK ODOT (888-275-6368) or by email at Ask.ODOT@odot.oregon.gov.

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TripCheck and other resources: Summer travel information

KEY TAKEAWAYS

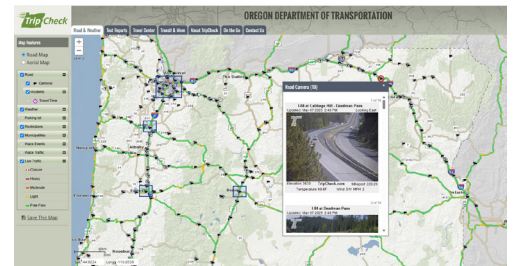
- Plan ahead and check conditions and forecasts before traveling.
- TripCheck offers real-time conditions, alerts, cameras and more.
- See something concerning on the road? For emergencies, call 911. Non-emergencies, call *677.

Additional resources:

- Graphic: [TripCheck features](#)
- Graphic: [TripCheck logo](#)
- Graphic: [TripCheck home page](#)
- Website: [TripCheck home page](#)

To help you better prepare as a traveler, we offer several ways to get the latest in vital traveler information.

Online: For the latest travel conditions, visit TripCheck.com, ODOT's mobile-friendly travel information website. The site features:



- Maps updated in real time that display road conditions, color-coded traffic speeds on most roads across the state, trouble spots, weather, construction, maintenance and traffic incidents. You'll also find alerts prominently displayed.
- Images from more than 1,000 cameras throughout Oregon, southern Washington, northern Nevada, western Idaho and northern California.
- The ability to create and bookmark custom camera pages with up to 10 different cameras for quick checks of specific routes.
- Links to information on scenic byways, rest areas and more.
- Waze user reports and traffic jams.
- Current travel times throughout the Portland metro area.
- Updated highway closure information; it's now easier to view highway closure information on I-84 and I-5.
- Links to public transportation providers, Amtrak Cascades passenger rail and more, so you can explore car-free options.

TripCheck information is available via X/Twitter. Visit TripCheck.com and click on the On The Go tab to learn more. TripCheck TV allows users to create a custom display of road condition information and cameras.

By phone: Travelers in Oregon can dial 511 to access road and weather information.

- You can select updated reports about driving conditions by highway, mountain pass or major city from easy-to-use menus. The 511 system responds to voice and touch-tone commands.
- Most wireless companies in Oregon provide 511 service. If you cannot use 511, call toll-free 800-977-ODOT (6368) for road and weather information. Outside Oregon, dial 503-588-2941.
- Remember, in Oregon, drivers are allowed to use hands-free devices but not texting devices or handheld devices. ODOT encourages motorists to pull off the road and park in a safe area before using mobile devices.

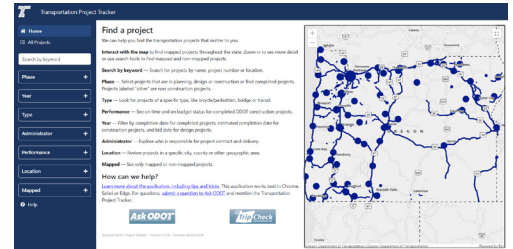


Map lets you see transportation projects happening in your area

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Project Tracker interactive map lets you find projects in your area.
- The map has information about the scope, schedule and budget of projects.
- If a project is currently under construction, you'll get a link for more detailed information.

It's easy to see how and where Oregon invests state and federal transportation funds by using the ODOT Transportation Project Tracker. This interactive map lets you search, click, pan and zoom to find projects in your area. Filters allow you to sort by project type, phase and more.



We designed the tracker to show information about the scope, schedule and budget of projects and studies, including projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, our four-year capital improvement program. Use it to see what's happening in your area.

Zoom in to use the search box to find a project. You'll see a brief description and summary of the project. If it's currently under construction, you'll get a link to more information such as traffic impacts, upcoming work and more.

View the ODOT Transportation Project Tracker at gis.odot.state.or.us/tpt/. Detailed information about the data displayed is available on the ODOT website.

Additional resources:

- Graphic: [Project Tracker](#)
- Website: [Project Tracker](#)
- Website: [Using Project Tracker](#)
- Website: [STIP Projects](#)

ODOT



We use many methods to preserve our pavement

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- There are many different types of work that we do to maintain and extend the life of our roads.
- Pavement preservation projects can range from a full reconstruction to spot repairs, like crack sealing or pothole patching.
- Some of the most common work our crews do in the summer months is pavement preservation

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Pothole patching](#)
- Photo: [Grind and inlay](#)
- Photo: [Chip seal](#)
- Video: [Chip seal operations](#)
- Video: [Pavement grinding B-roll](#)

The term “road construction” encompasses many different types of jobs. One of the more common types of work our crews do during the summer months is paving, or pavement preservation. But what does that mean? There are many different ways that we work to improve and extend the life of our road surfaces. Take a look at the different types of pavement preservation work that we do.

Full depth reconstruction – This is when we remove all of the old material and replace everything from the ground up. There are many layers to this type of work. We use this method of preservation when the road base (gravel and dirt below the pavement) is failing or doesn’t have enough structure. Bases often fail due to water or poor quality of dirt under the road. Nowadays, we place fabric between the gravel and the dirt to help limit failures of the base material.

Grind and inlay – Special equipment grinds off the top two or three inches of pavement. The surface is replaced with two to three inches of new material. This type of preservation is used when the top layers of material are very damaged, but the base is in good condition. Water is the number one culprit for this type of damage, but studded tire use also plays a big part. We take core samples of the road to see all of the history of paving in that spot, and that determines our grinding depth.

Overlay – Similar to a grind inlay, but we don’t remove or grind any pavement off the top. We simply place two to three inches of new paving material over the old surface. We use this process when the base and lower road structures are suitable and the road can support more material. It takes much less time and effort, but doesn’t work for every situation.

Chip seal – A chip seal extends the life of a road surface. We mix hot oil and gravel to create a new durable coating. You’ll see this most often on rural roads or roads with less traffic volume. Drive slowly when driving over a chip seal, because there is often loose material.

Crack sealing – Crack sealing involves filling cracks in the pavement with a flexible sealant to prevent water and debris from entering and causing further damage. This process helps extend the pavement’s lifespan by preventing deterioration and moisture-related problems.

Rut or patch paving – When ruts are worn into the road from vehicle tires,



we often — but not always — grind the surface. Pavement is used to fill in the ruts to create a more even road surface. This will look like two lines of new material.

Pothole paving – As a temporary fix, when holes or rough indentations appear in the pavement due to wear and tear, we often use a patch mix material to fill the holes and even out the road surface.

Polyester Polymer Concrete overlay – This method of pavement preservation is usually only seen on bridges. We use a polymer-based epoxy mixed with rock to seal over the concrete bridge surface. This treatment is thin — usually only an inch or less — to preserve concrete bridge decks.

Full bridge deck replacement – Sometimes the entire driving surface of a bridge needs to be replaced. This can be done one of two ways. The first is to build the new bridge deck in place. Sections are removed and new sections are built right into the bridge deck. This process is lengthy and can often close a bridge for months at a time. The second method is faster and with less impact to road users, although it is more expensive. This is called accelerated bridge construction. Sections of bridge deck are built off-site and moved into place as old sections are removed.

Visit www.TripCheck.com, Oregon's travel information website, for up-to-the-minute road conditions. You can also get the latest in road conditions by calling 511.

ODOT

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Safety for everyone on the road is important to us. Please do your part.
- Two of the most important things you can do are to slow down in work zones and focus on your driving.
- Keep an eye out for workers and flaggers. They know more about what's happening in the work zone than you do!

Additional resources:

- Video: [Work zone safety playlist](#)
- Website: [Project Tracker](#)
- Website: [TripCheck](#)

Drivers: Be prepared, stay alert, drive healthy

Travelers aren't the only people on the road during the summer. Construction crews take advantage of the drier months to complete construction projects and much-needed roadway maintenance. Here are some reminders to help keep everyone safe in highway work zones:

- **Focus on driving.** No matter the weather, conditions can change quickly, so it's important to focus on the road ahead. Put away distractions like cell phones, tablets and other electronic devices. Keep your hands on the wheel and your mind on the road.
- **Drive sober.** There are many reasons to celebrate during the summer months, but if you're driving, it's critical that you be sober and clear-headed. Driving sober isn't limited to alcohol or illegal drugs. Marijuana, prescription drugs — even over-the-counter medicines — can affect driving behavior.
- **Be rested.** It's tempting to push yourself during longer days with increased daylight hours, but if you drive too long your fatigue will overshadow your focus. If you're feeling tired, take a break — before it's too late.
- **Prepare ahead of time.** Check road conditions before you head out by visiting [TripCheck.com](#) or calling 511. Make sure your safety kit is stowed in the trunk, and tell someone where you are going and what route you are taking.
- **Watch out for each other, on and near the road.** Be diligent, pack your patience and drive defensively; watch for pedestrians and bicycles by routinely scanning your environment and slowing down when they are present. Slow down! Follow the construction speed limit and maintain a safe distance between vehicles.
- **Keep an eye out for workers and equipment** in and around the work zone. Watch for flaggers directing traffic.
- **Stay alert and focus on the road.** Avoid distractions like using your cell phone, tuning the radio and eating.
- **Don't be surprised to see police patrols near a work zone.** Remember, fines are doubled for traffic citations in work zones.
- **Give yourself extra time** to get where you need to go. Don't be tempted to speed through a work zone if you're running late to your destination.



- **Plan ahead.** Use TripCheck.com to look for scheduled construction in your area or along your routes.

Safety for everyone on the road is important to us. Please do your part to help maintain a safe environment for construction workers, fellow drivers and people who are walking or rolling through the area.

For a complete list of scheduled work on Oregon highways, please visit: gis.odot.state.or.us/tpt or www.TripCheck.com.

ODOT



The science behind scheduling projects

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Many factors are considered when we schedule road projects.
- We try to schedule projects to reduce disruption to drivers
- Other factors include the type of work, noise, timing and duration, and safety.

It's a common question we often hear: Why does all the road construction happen all at once? Why do some projects cause weekend closures or interrupt the workday? Why is some work done only during the day while other work is done only at night?



There are many factors considered in project scheduling. For starters, we try to impact the least amount of traffic possible. We try to reduce the disruption to drivers commuting to and from work. Other factors include:

- **Type of work:** Some construction, such as bridge-forming and abutments that involve intricate carpentry work, needs adequate light to be done well.
- **Temperature:** Colder overnight temperatures can preclude certain work. For example, national standards for paving say it can't be done below a certain temperature because the asphalt needs to set before it can be properly compacted. So overnight paving during fall, winter and spring months isn't possible.
- **Noise:** Whether it's urban or rural work, if it will be done near residential areas we have to consider daytime work to minimize the nighttime noise.
- **Logistics:** We must take practical concerns into account, such as the extra cost of running lights or having a paving plant open in the middle of the night.
- **Timing and Duration:** Working during the day will often get a project finished sooner. If a contractor says work can be finished after 100 days of night work or half that during the day, we likely will opt to get a project over sooner to reduce the time that drivers will have to go through a construction zone.
- **Safety:** The safety of construction workers is paramount, as is the safety of drivers. While there are fewer drivers at night, reduced visibility for drivers and workers must be considered.

Before a project starts, ODOT and contractors will go over all these factors to decide what work can be completed at night and what will need to happen during the day. Our goal is to limit the inconvenience construction may have on drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and neighboring businesses and communities while delivering services and infrastructure improvements for Oregonians.



Driving through a work zone requires caution and care

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Slow down and be alert whenever you enter a work zone.
- In work zone crashes, more drivers and passengers are injured or killed than highway workers.
- Use caution even when a work zone doesn't appear to be active.

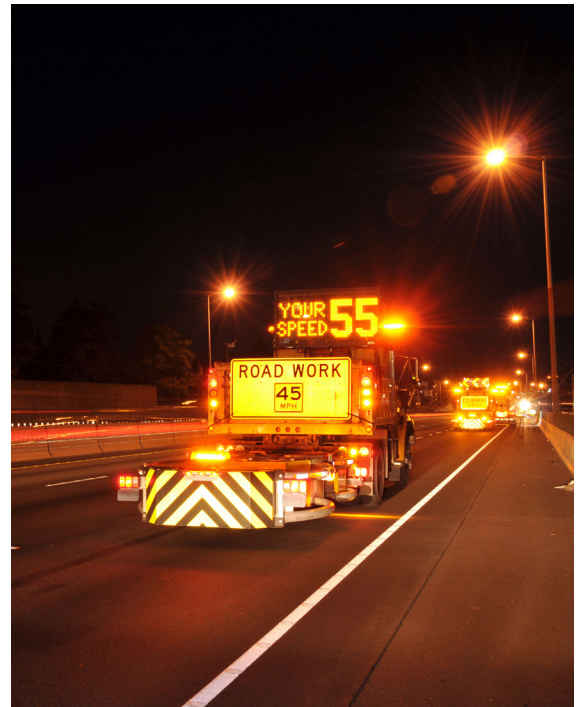
Additional resources:

- Website: [Statewide crash data](#)

Traveling through a work zone is both a lot easier and a lot harder than you might think.

First, it's easier because you have to slow down and be alert. Those are among the basics for all drivers. Use caution, watch where you're going and keep your eyes wide open.

Second, it's harder than you might think because — more than many other driving conditions — lives are at stake. But it's not just road workers in jeopardy. More drivers and passengers are injured and killed each year than highway workers.



We all need to remember to slow down and expect delays whenever we see orange signs, barrels, cones and barricades — not just in work zones but also in the transition areas leading to them.

Use caution even when a work zone isn't active. There can be bumps, barriers and narrower lanes during the entire length of a project. Work could be happening below the roadway where workers aren't visible. There may be trucks or equipment intermittently entering the road nearby, or damage to the road that you can't see. Work zone conditions are fluid and can change from day to day. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Work zones include short term work zones, such as for maintenance projects or signal repairs, and moving work zones for projects such as painting road stripes or sweeping. Always be careful around workers and equipment!

Work-zone crashes are preventable. Here are 10 reminders:

1. **Drive as if you work there.** Think about what it would be like if you had a semi going through your workplace at 60 mph.
2. **Stay alert and minimize distractions.** Dedicate your full attention to the road, avoid changing radio stations while in a work zone, and never use a cell phone while driving.
3. **Expect the unexpected.** Normal speed limits are reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.
4. **Obey speed signs.** Work zone speed limits may be reduced to keep you and workers safe. Excessive speed is a major factor in nearly all fatal crashes.

5. **Move over** to give workers more room when possible.
6. **Obey road flaggers and automated flagging devices.** Flaggers know what's best for work zone traffic and they have the same authority as a regulatory sign. You can be cited for disobeying their directions.
7. **Remember that fines double in all Oregon work zones,** whether or not workers and signs are present.
8. **Give extra space.** Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you. The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear-end collision.
9. **Pay attention to the signs.** The warning signs are there to help you move safely through the work zone. Observe posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone.
10. **Chill out.** Remember, the work zone crews are improving the road and making your future driving experience better. And they need to go home to their families too.

State Highway Work Zone Crash Data for 2024*

	Fatalities (people)	Serious Injuries (people)	Any Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only Crashes	TOTAL WORK ZONE CRASHES
2024	12	36	595	259	621
2023	10	43	572	224	584
2022	11	48	525	175	507
2021	4	23	422	208	476
2020	7	19	337	173	400
2020-24 AVERAGE	8.8	32.6	490.2	207.8	517.6

*Most recent data available

Work Zone Safety Incidents

Year	Total safety incidents recorded	Number of reported near misses	Incidents resulting in property damage and/or injury to employee
2024	304 (up 15%)	237 (up 7%)	67 (up 45%)
2023	257	220	37

Top categories of safety incidents include failing to follow the pilot car, vehicle nearly colliding with equipment, illegal or unsafe passing.



Safely navigating mobile work zones

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A mobile work zone is a moving or temporary work zone, usually for short-term projects.
- Look for traffic control devices or flaggers, slow down, and be patient.
- Resist the temptation to pass moving equipment.

A mobile work zone is a moving or temporary work zone. Instead of working in a fixed place that may require road or lane closures, mobile work zones allow for necessary maintenance while minimizing disruptions to traffic flow.

During the summer season, you'll likely see our maintenance crews patching potholes, repairing guardrails, painting road markings, installing signage, trimming vegetation and street sweeping.



Here's how you can safely navigate a mobile work zone:

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Striping](#)
- Photo: [Striping - placing buttons](#)
- Photo: [Maintenance work \(album\)](#)
- Video: [Safety in mobile work zones](#)
- Video: [Striping B-roll](#)

- **Look out for traffic control devices** such as cones, signs, barriers, and flashing lights. These devices alert drivers to the presence of a work zone and guide traffic safely through.
- **Pay attention to speed limits.** Speed limits in work zones are typically reduced and can sometimes change depending on traffic flow, time of day, or type of work.
- **Resist the temptation to pass moving equipment.** Not only is it illegal, passing equipment can result in crashes that cause harm to our crews and the traveling public.
- **Be patient and remember that road crews are people, too.** They are spouses, parents, children, siblings and friends. They work for your safety; they all deserve to go home safe at the end of their shift.
- **Know before you go.** Be prepared for increased travel times or use an alternate route to avoid the work zone altogether. Visit Trip-Check.com for details on active work zones.

Whether you've never seen a mobile work zone, or you travel through them often, these tips still apply!

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our crews are out there every day and the work they do is for you. Help us keep our crews safe when traveling through mobile work zones.

ODOT



Time to merge? Zip it up!

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A zipper merge uses both traffic lanes to accommodate the most vehicles and prevents long backups.
- Stay in your current lane up to the point of the merge, and then take turns.
- Safe driving habits benefit travelers and workers alike by keeping traffic moving smoothly and preventing crashes.

Additional resources:

- Video: [Merge like a zipper](#)
- Graphic: [Zipper merge](#)

Lane closures are a common feature in highway work zones. With the busy summer construction season ahead, it's a good time for a reminder about the "zipper merge" and how it is designed to prevent backups and keep traffic moving safely through a work zone.

When drivers see the first "lane closed ahead" sign in a work zone, many slow too quickly and move to the lane that will continue through the construction area. This can lead to dangerous lane switching, serious crashes, long backups and even road rage.

As you see the "lane closed ahead" sign, stay in your current lane up to the point of merge. Then take turns with other drivers to ease into the remaining lane.

When traffic is heavy and slow, it is much safer for motorists to remain in their current lane until the point where traffic can take turns merging.

Zipper merging benefits individual drivers as well as the public at large. Research shows that these dangers decrease when motorists use both lanes until reaching the defined merge area and then take turns continuing in the open lane, like the teeth of a zipper.

Accepting the zipper merge may take a change in your mindset. Many drivers were taught to merge early and believe they are being "cut off" by vehicles merging from the lane that is ending. But sharing the road with a zipper merge means being patient and taking turns.

A cooperative attitude is especially important in a highway work zone. Safer driving habits benefit travelers and workers alike by preventing crashes and keeping traffic moving smoothly.





Exploring Oregon's safety corridors

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Safety corridors are sections of state highways that have a higher than usual rate of serious crashes or fatalities.
- Fines can double in safety corridors, and there is increased law enforcement.
- Increase your awareness of safety corridors and make them safer for everyone.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Installing a safety corridor sign](#)
- Photo: [Safety corridor](#)
- Website: [Safety corridors](#)

What exactly are Safety Corridors?

[Safety Corridors](#) are sections of state highways where the rates of serious crashes and fatalities are higher compared to similar roads statewide. When a stretch of road warrants this designation, it becomes a “safety corridor.” This means it’s placed under a spotlight for safety measures, including increased law enforcement and doubled fines for traffic violations, if indicated. In some cases, drivers might be asked to turn on their headlights during the day, slow down, and avoid passing other vehicles in these areas.



How does this affect you?

Simply put, we’re asking you to increase your awareness of these corridors and help make them safer for everyone who uses them. One significant aspect of this initiative is stricter enforcement. Enforcement is one of the best ways to reduce crashes, because drivers slow down, pay better attention, and follow the laws when they see a patrol vehicle. Imagine seeing signs that read “Traffic Fines Double” – that’s a real possibility in these areas. Getting a ticket here could hit your wallet twice as hard.

But it’s not just about penalties. We’re also working behind the scenes to make these roads safer. Our engineers implement cost-effective improvements like better road markings, raised pavement markers, and signs that catch your attention. Additionally, we’re big on education. Through various channels such as media campaigns, educational events, brochures, billboards, posters, and involving community partners we’re spreading the word about the importance of safe and courteous driving.

Want to dive deeper into Safety Corridors?

Visit our [Safety Corridor and Roadway Safety page](#) to learn more about how we’re making Oregon’s roads safer, one corridor at a time.



Use online testing, don't spend your summer in line at DMV

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Summer break is a popular time for aspiring drivers to test for an instruction permit.
- You can take the Oregon DMV knowledge test online at home.
- The online test is available in eight different languages.

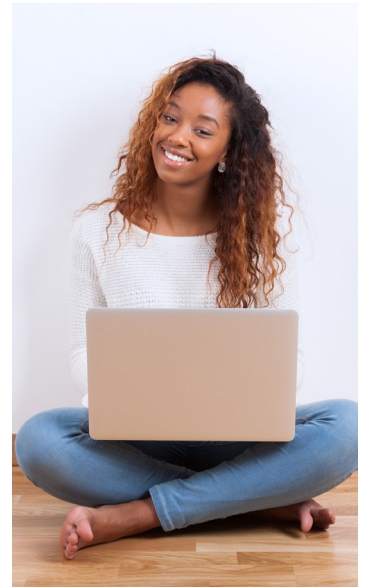
Additional resources:

- Video: [Online knowledge test](#)
- Graphic: [Taking the online knowledge test](#)
- Website: [Practice test](#)
- Website: [The online knowledge test](#)

Summer break is a great time for aspiring drivers to test for their instruction permit online. Students preparing to get their driver permit can take the Oregon DMV knowledge test at home before visiting a DMV office. The online test is available in eight languages.

Here's how students take advantage of this opportunity:

- Students need a laptop or a computer with a webcam, keyboard, mouse and reliable internet. A mobile phone or tablet will not work.
- Students who are under 18 will need someone 21 or older to supervise them taking the test.
- After students pass the test online, they will need to visit a DMV office with their identity documents to complete their application. They can schedule an appointment or visit any DMV office without an appointment. We recommend customers check the status of their DMV office before visiting.
- Students under 18 will need to apply for a permit and hold it for at least six months.
- Students 18 and older can apply for a permit, too, or schedule a drive test.



Why take the test online?

Testing online offers customers the option to test in a familiar environment without the pressure of being in an office. Once they pass their test, customers can confidently come to a DMV office knowing they have met the testing requirement and apply for their permit. This can save people multiple trips into the office.

The knowledge test can be read and heard in the following languages online and in DMV offices:

- Arabic
- Chinese (simplified Mandarin)
- English
- Japanese
- Korean
- Russian
- Spanish
- Vietnamese

[Visit the online test webpage](#) for details.



New driver? Take drivers ed courses this summer

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Teens who take an ODOT-approved driver education course gain skills that lead to safer driving.
- Teens who did not take driver education receive more tickets and are involved in more crashes.
- ODOT offers an additional subsidy to people who meet eligibility requirements.

Teens who take an ODOT-approved driver education course learn skills that can, when consistently practiced, lead to lifelong safer driving. Students, ages 16-20, who complete an ODOT-approved driver education course are less likely to receive a traffic conviction or be involved in a serious crash. Based

on 2020-2024 preliminary ODOT DMV data comparing teens, ages 16-20, who had taken driver education with those who had not, teens who did not take driver education received 93.5% of the citations and were involved in 89.5% of teen crashes.



In Oregon, a driver education course costs an average of \$386 after the ODOT subsidy. To encourage families to sign up their teens for driver education, ODOT offers an additional subsidy of up to \$75 to approved providers, who are then able to pass it on as a discount to eligible families. To be eligible, a family must meet the definition of economically disadvantaged according to the Oregon Board of Education. If you meet and can provide proof of the eligibility requirements, you can choose an ODOT-Approved provider in your area and request an estimate.

Additional resources:

- Video: [Online knowledge test](#)
- Video: [Driver education](#)
- Video: [Behind the wheel of a drive test](#)
- Webpage: [Resources for parents and teens](#)
- Booklet: [How to Guide Your Teen Diver/Cómo Orientar a su Conductor Adolescente](#).
- [Resources for parents and teens](#).
- Learn more about the [online option for the knowledge test](#), available in eight languages.

ODOT



DMV self-service options give customers convenient choices

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Many options are available for completing DMV transactions without going to an office.
- DMV2U has more than 30 transactions you can complete online.
- DMV Express Kiosks are available in some areas to renew your vehicle registration and other tasks.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Express Kiosks album](#)
- Video: [DMV2U series](#)
- Video: [DMV Express Kiosks](#)
- Video: [DMV Kiosk B-roll](#)
- Webpage: [DMV2U](#)

We're always looking at ways to improve DMV services for customers. This includes offering more self-service options and appointments.

Check out DMV2U

DMV2U lets you choose from more than 30 DMV transactions online at your convenience, so you can avoid waiting in line in an office or on the phone. This frees up space for people who require personal assistance. On DMV2U, you can:

- Make or reschedule an appointment.
- Renew or replace your Oregon license, permit or ID (you must be under 65 to renew online).
- Renew or replace your vehicle registration.
- Report a sold vehicle.
- Take your knowledge test.
- Submit a collision report.
- Order a new plate.
- Order a trip permit.
- Pay your reinstatement fee.
- Purchase an annual Sno-Park permit.
- Purchase your driving record.
- Update or change your address.



DMV2U Help Videos

Need assistance? The [How to DMV2U video series](#) explains select DMV2U transactions step-by-step for some of the most common tasks.

Visit a DMV Express Kiosk

- DMV Express Kiosks provide a fast and easy way to:
- Renew your vehicle registration
- Print a copy of your vehicle registration
- Replace your vehicle registration card and stickers.
- Pay miscellaneous vehicle fees.
- Pay the driver's license reinstatement fee.

Located in 10 Fred Meyer stores along the Willamette Valley corridor and in Bend, this convenient option means you can make one stop for your everyday purchases and complete your DMV transactions during the store's regular business hours. After a successful transaction, the items print immediately. The average transaction takes less than five minutes and is available in English and Spanish.

Make an Appointment

Many DMV offices offer appointments – some even provide same-day availability – while others require them. Always check your local office page before visiting. Appointments are prioritized and usually have much shorter wait times. You can schedule, change or cancel an appointment on DMV2U.

ODOT



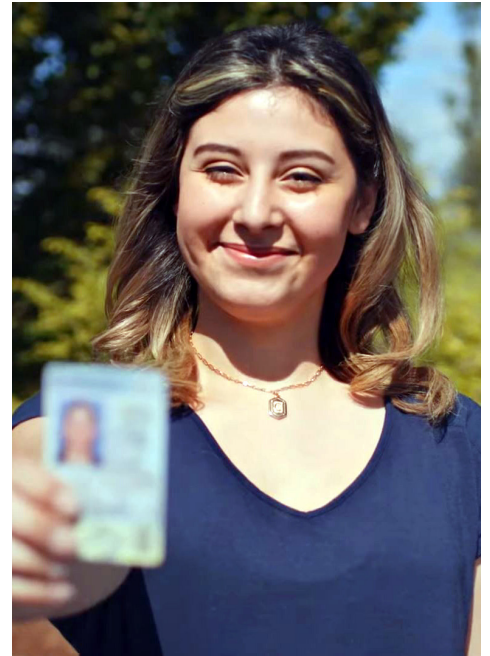
100 deadliest days of summer

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The 100 days of summer are considered the deadliest of days for drivers, especially teens.
- Reduce the possibility of crashes by avoiding unnecessary risks, such as speeding or impaired driving.
- Remind younger drivers of their responsibility to keep themselves, their passengers and others safe.

Summer is upon us, and that means our youngest drivers are out and about. The 100 days of summer are considered the deadliest days for drivers, especially teen drivers. According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), nationwide 2,611 people died in teen-driving related summertime crashes in 2023. Speeding is one of the leading causes of fatal crashes involving teen drivers. Additionally, distracted driving or driving impaired are the leading causes of crashes for drivers of all ages.

To reduce the possibility for crashes this summer (or any day of the year), talk to your teen about avoiding unnecessary risks while driving:



Additional resources:

- Photo: [Teen drivers album](#)
- Video: [Driver education](#)
- Video: [Behind the wheel of a drive test](#)

- **Speeding** greatly reduces your reaction time and increases your risk. It also reduces your peripheral vision field, making it more likely you won't see objects or people about to enter the roadway.
- **Impairment or "buzzed" driving** can happen in a flash when drinking alcohol or taking drugs (even over-the-counter medicines!).
- **Distractions are deadly!** In Oregon, drivers under the age of 18 are completely prohibited from using a cell phone (even hands-free) for any purpose while driving.
- Increasing **the number of passengers in a car** also increases the risk of a crash. If a teen does have passengers, ask friends to act as a co-pilot for younger drivers to lend an extra set of eyes and remind them of their responsibility to help keep occupants and other road users safe! They can also control the driver's phone for them!

Summer is for making great memories, not tragedies. Teens are very capable of driving correctly and their best coach is their parent or guardian!

ODOT



Save fuel and time with better driving habits and travel options

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Plan ahead and check conditions and forecasts before traveling.
- Drive courteously. Aggressive driving can lower your gas mileage or deplete your EV's battery.
- Remember, you have travel options such as buses or trains.

Additional resources:

- Website: [Get There Oregon](#)
- Website: [Amtrak Cascades](#)
- Website: [POINT bus](#)

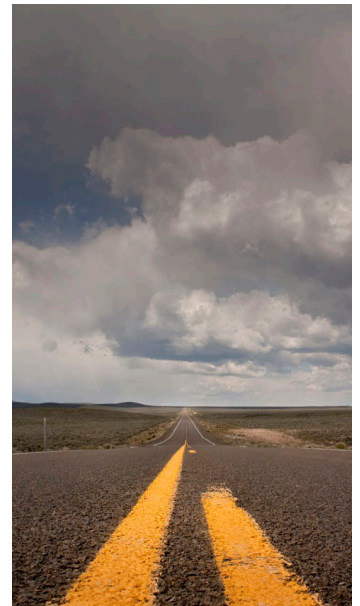
Do you have big plans to travel and experience Oregon's beauty this summer? Follow these easy tips to ensure an efficient, pleasant trip.

Plan ahead

A little bit of preparation can go a long way.

If you drive a gas-powered vehicle, opt for one longer trip instead of several short trips over the same distance. One longer trip will use less fuel and save you money.

For electric vehicle drivers, plan your EV charging stops before you head out. You don't want to ruin your road trip with a stressful, last-minute charging station search. Websites like [abetterroutepanner.com](#) and [plugshare.com](#) can help you decide when and where to charge.



Reduce your idle time

In gas-powered vehicles, idling wastes fuel and increases greenhouse gas emissions — which contribute to air pollution. Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and air conditioner use. Make sure you're ready to go before starting your engine.

Idling also happens when you're waiting in traffic. Know before you go to avoid delays, congestion and construction by visiting [TripCheck.com](#).

EV drivers don't need to worry about idling in traffic, but avoid "idling" your EV at a public charging station after it's finished charging. Other EV drivers may need a charge, so be courteous and move your vehicle out of the dedicated charging space.

Take it slow and steady

Aggressive driving isn't just a safety risk — it wastes fuel too! Whether your vehicle is powered by gas or electrons, drive sensibly and avoid speeding, rapid acceleration and hard braking. Aggressive driving habits can lower your gas mileage by 15-30%, or quickly deplete your EV's battery.

Share or rethink your ride

Remember, when it comes to travel in Oregon — you have options. The best way to save on fuel is to simply reduce your need for it!

Here are some options:

- Plan your trip using Get There Oregon, [getthereoregon.org](#). You can enter your starting and ending locations and select the transit option to find information on routes.

- Use [the Ride Board feature](#) in Get There to find a one time shared ride.
- Amtrak Cascades train (Eugene to Portland to Seattle to Vancouver, B.C.): www.amtrakoregon.com.
- POINT intercity bus service, making connections all over the state: www.oregon-point.com.

Know Before You Go: Visit TripCheck.com, Oregon's travel information website, for up-to-the-minute road conditions and more information on transportation options. You can also get the latest in road conditions by calling 511.

ODOT



Motorcyclists: Protect yourself so you can enjoy the ride

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- If you don't already have a motorcycle endorsement, you are required to take a class to get one.
- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Be visible.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Proper gear](#)
- Photo: [Motorcycle safety album](#)
- Website: [Motorcycle manual](#)
- Website: [Team Oregon](#)
- Website: [National Highway Traffic Safety Association](#)

Experience Oregon's awesome roads safely

It's a no-brainer: experience makes you a better motorcycle rider. So, first things first — we suggest you take a class! In fact, if you don't already have a motorcycle endorsement, you are required to take a class to get one. Check out [Oregon's motorcycle and moped handbook](#) for more information.

Either way, take a course!

Safe motorcycling takes balance, coordination and good judgment. Completing a motorcycle rider education course (like those offered by [Team Oregon](#)) is a good way to ensure you have the correct instruction and experience it takes to ride a motorcycle safely.

Wear a helmet

Helmets are required in Oregon. Make sure it is DOT-certified. For the best protection, wear a full face helmet with a face shield. You'll want to replace your helmet every three to five years (follow manufacturer's direction), and if you can't find a comfortable fit, [get professionally fitted](#).

Reduce your chances of getting hit

Motorcyclists are often hit when a vehicle turns left across traffic in front of them or pulls out from the right in front of them. In both cases, drivers will often say they didn't see the bike. According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), there are some key things riders can do to reduce the chances of getting hit:

- Follow the posted speeds to ensure drivers' expectations are accurate and to ensure you can stop if necessary.
- Maintain a lane position and following distance (at least four seconds) that ensures visibility to all drivers. Remember, lane splitting is illegal in Oregon.
- Wear protective and reflective/retroreflective clothing that contrasts with your background. Ensure your headlight is on.
- Practice your emergency stops and ride within your own abilities.

Also, take special care to navigate intersections safely. Check for traffic on all sides and only move forward on green after you deem it's safe.



Other tips to enjoy the ride

- Get to know your motorcycle by practicing. That way you can handle changing road conditions, weather and traffic.
- Have a procedure you follow before every ride: check tire pressure, fluid levels, brakes, lights; secure your cargo; wear proper gear; etc.
- Ride responsibly — obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits. Ride your best — sober, well-rested and focused on the task of expertly operating your motorcycle. Enjoy!

ODOT



What to pack for a fun and safe summer road trip

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Plan ahead. Check your route, and make sure your vehicle is in good working order.
- Carry emergency essentials with you, such as a first aid kit and extra food and water.
- Let someone else know your plans, where you're going and what route you'll be taking.

Each summer, Oregonians cram their vehicles full of people and pets, slap some shades over their eyes, and hit the road in search of adventure. It's a time-honored American tradition, and Oregon's landscape is enticing to explore.

Most people have the basic summer road trip details down — where they're going, and who's coming with them — but it can be hard to know what items are the best to pack beyond the essentials like clothing and food.



To help jumpstart your packing plans, here are a few essential items to keep in your vehicle as you explore Oregon this summer:

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Packing emergency essentials](#)

- **Make sure your vehicle is in good working order.** Double check tire pressures, headlight and taillight bulbs, and that you have your vehicle's documentation, like registration and proof of insurance.
- **Extra food and water.** Snacks and road trips are an iconic duo, but it's always good to have extra food squirreled away in the car. Extra water is especially important, given the high summer temperatures in Oregon. Remember food and water for your pets.
- **Paper road maps.** Oregon's rugged landscape can get remote in some spots, and cell service isn't guaranteed. Keep a road map of Oregon in your glove box as a backup. You can request one for free from ODOT by emailing odotmaps@odot.oregon.gov.
- **A fire extinguisher and shovel.** Summer is wildfire season. Although your vehicle is designed with safety in mind, many components are potential fire hazards. If you suddenly have to deal with a vehicle fire, having a fire extinguisher on hand will help you stay safe.
- **N95 mask for wildfire smoke.** An N95 mask will help protect your lungs from harmful contaminants in the air. You can also see real-time air quality in Oregon with a mobile app called "OregonAir," made by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- **Hand sanitizer.** Having clean hands is one of the best ways to prevent illness.
- **Sunglasses and sunblock.** Sunny skies are a summer staple, but harsh glare off water, cars or other surfaces can make it hard to see when you drive. Even a cheap pair of sunglasses can make a difference. And don't forget to slather on that sunblock.
- **Blankets and warm clothing.** Nighttime can still get pretty chilly, even during summer. If your vehicle breaks down at night in a remote location, a blanket and warm clothes can help keep you cozy until help arrives.

- **Basic first aid kit.** Exploring Oregon can sometimes lead to bumps, scrapes and bruises. A basic first aid kit can make a big difference if you get hurt. Make sure to include necessary prescription medication.
- **Flashlight.** The sun may stay up past 8 p.m. during the summer, but it's a good idea to have a flashlight tucked in a corner for emergencies.
- **Itinerary for a friend or family member.** Let someone else know where you're going, what route you're taking, and when you plan to arrive at your destination. In the event you get lost and need help, that other person can provide information to emergency services.

Bonus tip: Know before you go! Before you head out, look at the weather forecast and check [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com) for road closures and travel information.

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Secure your load

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Secure your load using ropes, netting, straps or chains.
- If your load extends beyond your bumper, make sure it's tagged with a light or a flag.
- Check your load frequently to be sure the items you are carrying don't come loose.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Secure your load](#)
- Website: [Securing your cargo](#)

While gearing up for a road or camping trip, don't forget that it is illegal to transport loads that drag or leak. Loads that drag, such as trailer chains, can throw sparks and pose a serious wildfire risk — creating an opportunity to ignite vegetation on the nearby shoulder.

Make sure that your load:

- Does not drag, shift, or leak on the pavement.
- Is marked with a light or flag on the end, if required.
- Is directly tied to the vehicle or trailer.
- Is not overloaded and does not obstruct the driver's view.
- Does not interfere with control or operation of the vehicle.



Secure your load using ropes, netting, straps, or chains. Stop and check the load frequently. Make sure that the items you're carrying won't come loose or fall off during transport.

For more information on these permits/laws, please visit:

Securing Your Cargo/Load Resources and Laws: [oregon.gov/ODOT/Safety/Documents/Securing_Your_Cargo_or_Load_ORs.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Safety/Documents/Securing_Your_Cargo_or_Load_ORs.pdf).

ODOT



Bicycle safety in summertime

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Remember that bikes are considered vehicles and must follow traffic laws.
- Law requires that anyone under age 16 who is riding a bike needs to wear a helmet.
- Keep your bike in good working condition.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Bicycle users album](#)
- Video: [Sharrows](#)
- Graphic: [Sharrows](#)
- Website: [Bicyclist manual](#)
- Website: [Commute Options](#)

Summer brings more daylight hours, and that means more people on bikes, and more children out walking and rolling since school is out. But just because it's light for longer doesn't mean safety moves to the backburner.

People who ride bikes and people who drive cars need to share our roadways by obeying the traffic laws, respecting each other's rights, and being courteous to all people using the roads.

In Oregon traffic law, bicycles are considered "vehicles" and abide by the same rules a vehicle would.

But there is one law that came into effect January 2020 that's different: People on bicycles can roll through stop sign intersections if they slow the bicycle to a safe speed. People on bicycles can also make a right or left turn into a two-way street, or make a turn into a one-way street in the direction of traffic without stopping first. This law also applies to red flashing light intersections. It does not apply to intersections controlled by traffic lights.

Oregon law requires that anyone under the age of 16 who is riding a bicycle or being carried on a bicycle to wear approved protective headgear. The parent or guardian is held responsible.

Top tips for drivers to keep cyclists safe

- A sharrow marks a lane that is shared by people driving and people biking — this helps move traffic more efficiently. When you see sharrow markings, expect a person on a bike to take the lane: youtu.be/qWq2uMZbIXY.
- When exiting your car, open the car door with the hand that is farthest away — this will prompt you to turn further and be more likely to see anyone riding alongside you, so you can avoid dooring a passerby.
- Where speeds are greater than 35 mph, you may only pass a person riding a bicycle in your lane when it is safe to do so and if you leave enough distance to prevent contact with the person riding a bicycle if they were to fall. This is called "fall distance."
- The faster you drive, the more likely you are to kill a person on a bike if there is a crash: 20mph = 10% chance of death, 30mph = 40% chance of death, 40mph = 80% chance of death.



For people on bicycles, some safety tips:

- Ride a bike that fits you— if it's too big, it's harder to control the bike.
- Ride a bike that works — it really doesn't matter how well you ride if the brakes don't work.
- Wear equipment to protect yourself and to make you more visible to others, like a bike helmet, bright clothing, reflective gear, and a white front light and red rear light and reflectors on your bike (at night, or when visibility is poor).
- Ride one per seat, with both hands on the handlebars, unless signaling a turn.
- Carry all items in a backpack or strapped to the back of the bike.
- Keep an eye on the weather and pack enough water to stay hydrated.
- Tuck and tie your shoe laces and pant legs so they don't get caught in your bike chain.
- Plan your route — if driving as a vehicle on the road, choose routes with less traffic and slower speeds. Your safest route may be away from traffic altogether, in a bike lane, on a bike path, or along a greenway.

Let's all look out for each other — people on bicycles as well as people driving; we are all people getting to the places we want to go.

ODOT

This information is provided by *Commute Options* located in Bend.

Commute Options promotes active transportation including walking, bicycling, carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting and transit.

Learn more at commuteoptions.org.



Driving in the rain in summer

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Fresh rain after a dry spell can make roads more slippery.
- When it's raining, be cautious and give yourself extra time to get to your destination.
- Maintain your vehicle: Check that your wipers, your brakes and your tires are all in good condition.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Driving in the rain](#)
- Photo: [Freeway traffic in the rain](#)
- Video: [Driving in the rain safety reminder](#)

Summertime and fresh rain can create a perfect storm on the highways, especially after a long dry spell when vehicle fluids accumulate on pavement. Fresh rain mixed with oils can be more slippery than regular rain.

Rain any time of year creates dangerous driving conditions: reduced traction between tires and the road, less predictable car handling, and less visibility. When it's raining, be cautious and give yourself more time to get where you are going. Also remember to:



- Slow down. Driving through several inches of water at high speed can cause you to lose control of the car; it could also splash water into the engine and stall it. Lowering your speed helps you prepare for sudden stops caused by disabled cars, debris and other hazards.
- Expect road surfaces to be slick if it hasn't rained in a while and it does start to rain. Engine, transmission and power steering and other oils and grease build up on the road. When mixed with fresh rainwater, the road can become slick. The first few hours of a fresh rain can be the most dangerous.
- Turn off your cruise control.
- Turn on your headlights to improve visibility.
- Keep your distance. A car needs two to three times more stopping distance on wet roads.
- Always pay attention to driving rather than distractions, especially your phone.

Maintain your vehicle during wet weather

The most common vehicle problems in wet weather involve wipers, brakes, tires and defrosters.

- Before heading out in wet weather, check your wipers for signs of damage. Regularly replace wiper blades. Make sure your defroster is functioning properly, especially if you haven't used it in a while.
- Check your brakes. After driving through a puddle, check that your brakes are working properly by tapping them gently a few times.
- Check your tires. Make sure tires are in good condition and are at the recommended inflation level. Tires should have a recommended 2/32 of an inch tread depth at any two adjacent grooves.

Watch for hydroplaning conditions

Hydroplaning occurs when your front tires ride on a film of water. It can occur at speeds as low as 35 mph, especially if tires are worn. If you hydroplane, ease off the gas, gently apply the brakes and steer straight ahead.

ODOT



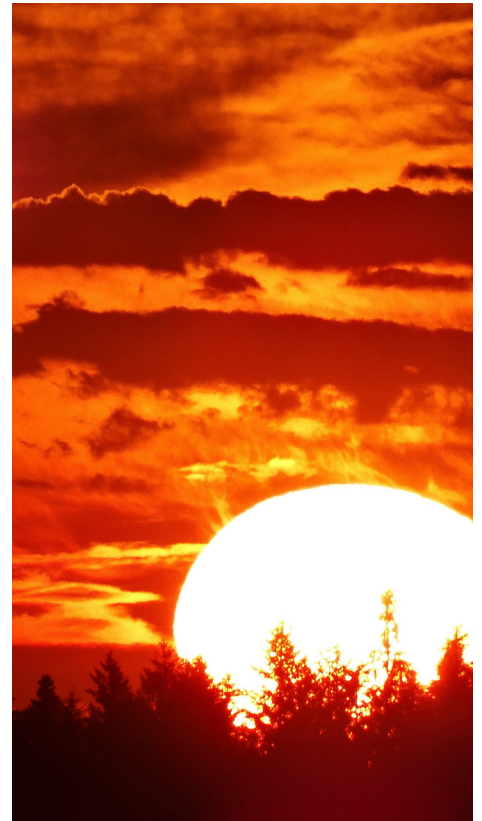
Plan for heat

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- It's important to be prepared for the heat as temperatures rise in the summertime.
- Stay hydrated, stay cool. Be prepared for the unexpected, especially if you don't have air conditioning.
- Never leave a child or a pet alone in a parked car. Always look in the front and back of the vehicle before locking the door and walking away.

As temperatures rise, it is important to be prepared for the heat. Take some simple steps to help prevent heat-related illnesses during your summer travels.

- **Stay hydrated.** Drinking enough water is a key factor in preventing heat-related illnesses. Be sure to carry extra water for everyone in the car (including pets). Electrolyte supplements can help replenish vital minerals to further prevent dehydration.
- **Stay cool.** If your car doesn't have AC, try to keep a steady airflow in the vehicle. Using a battery-operated fan can help keep you comfortable. You may need to make stops at air-conditioned places to cool down safely.
- **Plan ahead.** Use [TripCheck.com](https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT) to see which routes have known closures or delays - but be prepared for the unexpected. If you are stopped in traffic, it can get hot quickly, especially if you don't have air conditioning. In addition to water, always carry extra food and a first aid kit in your vehicle.



According to the Centers for Disease Control, symptoms such as headache, nausea or dizziness may indicate heat exhaustion. It's important to move to shade and drink water. More severe symptoms like confusion, loss of consciousness and hot, dry skin may be signs of heat stroke, a medical emergency. Call 911 right away if you think you are experiencing heat stroke. [Learn more about heat related illness.](#)

Finally, a reminder to never leave a child or a pet alone in a parked car, even with the windows rolled down or the air conditioning on. Always look in the front and back of the vehicle before locking the door and walking away.



Know your crosswalk laws

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In Oregon, every intersection is a crosswalk, even if it's not marked.
- A pedestrian is in a crosswalk when any part moves into the roadway at a crosswalk: including a wheelchair, can, crutch or bicycle.
- Be in the habit of looking out for people who are walking, biking or rolling.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Using a crosswalk](#)
- Photo: [Closed crosswalk](#)
- Video: [Rapid flash beacons](#)
- Video: [Closed crosswalks](#)

You've heard it a million times: "Look both ways!" and "Watch out for pedestrians!" Well, you're about to hear it again. The safety of Oregonians will always be of utmost importance. Take this time to freshen up on your crosswalk laws — whether you're a pedestrian or a driver (or both).

Remember:

- In Oregon, every intersection is a crosswalk, even if it's not marked with crosswalk lines. Every corner where two roads intersect is a crosswalk. The exception is intersections with posted "closed crosswalk" signs.
- Crosswalks may also exist between intersections (mid-block), but only when marked with painted white lines.
- By law, a pedestrian is in a crosswalk when any part of the pedestrian moves into the roadway at a crosswalk, with the intent to proceed. That includes not only the pedestrian's body, but also a wheelchair, cane, crutch, bicycle or any other extension of the person.
- A driver may be fined more than \$250 for failing to stop for a pedestrian.
- School may be out for the summer (meaning no school zones), but you still need to be alert for children in the roadways!
- Human pedestrians aren't the only pedestrians to look out for! Remember to watch for wildlife crossing the roadways.
- Make sure to stop well ahead of the crosswalk area to give other drivers and pedestrians better visibility.



By being in the habit of looking out for people who are walking, biking or rolling, you can help assure that we all get home safely.



Power failures can affect highway systems

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- If a traffic light isn't working, treat the intersection as an all-way stop.
- During long-term outages, railroad crossing arms move to the down position, Never drive around a crossing arm that's in the down position.
- Use your headlights whenever there is reduced visibility.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [String of dark signal lights](#)
- Photo: [Traffic signal without power](#)

Traffic crashes, wildfires and storms can cause power failures that affect signals. Here's what to do when traffic lights are not properly working:

- Treat the intersection as an all-way stop: Come to a full stop. Look both ways for other traffic and pedestrians. Make eye contact when possible; when it is safe, drive cautiously through the intersection.
- If there is other traffic, the driver who stops first goes first.
- If in doubt, yield to the driver on your right.



The most important thing to remember is to be courteous and careful. Never insist on the right of way at the risk of a crash.

Be alert at railroad crossings

Power outages also can affect railroad crossings. Railroad crossing signals have built-in backup battery power and should continue to operate for a short time during power outages. During a long-term power outage or other problem, railroad-crossing arms will automatically move to the "down" position. Railroad companies have standard procedures for these situations. Never drive around railroad-crossing arms in the down position. A train may be coming.

Use headlights for tunnels and bridges

It may be more difficult to see tunnel entrances and bridge approaches if there is a power outage. Use your headlights whenever there is reduced visibility and be careful.

Know Before You Go: Visit TripCheck.com, Oregon's travel information website, for up-to-the-minute road conditions and more information on Oregon's chain law and chain requirements. You can also get the latest in road conditions by calling 511.



Stay safe during wildfire season

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- During smoky conditions, check your route before you go. Be prepared to take an alternate route.
- If low visibility makes it too dangerous to drive, pull way off to the side of the road as soon as safely possible.
- Practice wildfire prevention. Never toss flammable materials from your vehicle, avoid parking a hot vehicle on dry grass.

Driving during smoky conditions

In recent years, we've seen an increase in wildfires and the smoke inevitably creates poor visibility on our roads, which is challenging for drivers. Sometimes the best thing to do is get off the road until conditions improve.

Here are tips for driving in smoky conditions.

Before you go

- Check your entire route before setting out. Conditions may vary along the way.
- Find an alternate route. Fire is wildly unpredictable, especially in high winds. If possible, find a route that takes you far away from fires.
- Have your car ready before you go. Make sure you have a full gas tank before leaving and that your vehicle is in good condition. Have water, food, and carry an emergency kit with extra water and medications for all your passengers, including for any pets you bring.



On the road

- Slow down and stay alert so you can respond to unexpected conditions.
- Turn on your headlights. Even during daylight hours your headlights will help others on the road see you. Use low-beams as high-beams reflect off particles in the air and cause glare.
- Use fog lights. If you have them, fog lights can help cut through the smoke.
- Pay attention. You need to drive, not take pictures. Especially when there's a fire.
- Keep plenty of space between you and other vehicles. With decreased visibility, make sure to maintain a safe stopping distance between you and the vehicle up front.
- If visibility becomes too dangerous to continue, pull off to the side of the road as soon as safely possible.

- Never stop in a travel lane. Look for a safe area completely away from the road if possible and turn off all lights — including emergency flashers — until it's safe to continue.
- Give extra space. Keep a steady, reliable pace. Remember that everyone else on the road is in the same fix you're in.
- Roll up the windows. Set your fan to recirculate.

Preventing wildfires

Practice fire prevention.

- When pulling off the road, stay on paved surfaces whenever possible. Avoid the side of the road where flammables such as dry grass can come in contact with your vehicle's hot components including the exhaust system or catalytic converter.
- Never toss a cigarette or any flammable materials out the window of a vehicle. Extinguish all smoking materials completely and thoroughly and away from dry grass and fuels.
- Secure chains and make sure they aren't dragging. They can cause sparks.

Maintain your car and carry the right equipment

- Maintain proper tire pressure as driving on rims will throw off sparks.
- Prevent vehicle fires by having your vehicle serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. Heat and electrical sparks that come into contact with leaking flammable car fluids can easily start a car fire.
- Carry a fire extinguisher in your car and know how to use it.
- Pack extra water.

Be alert

- If you see something, say something. If you encounter people behaving carelessly with fireworks or other flammables, alert the proper authorities.
- Know wildfire risks and restrictions in your area.

ODOT



Tips and resources for commercial vehicles

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Walk around your rig before and after each trip.
- Be aware of your route, and make sure your brakes are working well.
- Be prepared for changing conditions such as storms or wildfires.

Additional resources:

- Website: [Commerce and Compliance Division](#)

The summer months bring the heat, which means there is a higher chance of your engine overheating or your tires bursting. Nobody wants their commercial vehicle (or any other vehicle) to break down on the side of the road. So take these tips from ODOT's Commerce and Compliance team to stay on the road this summer, safely and smoothly.



- **Walk around your rig before and after each trip.** Look for tire pressure, leaks, damage – this 10-minute drill could pay you back many times over. A trip to the yard or store to fix something is faster and less expensive than sitting on the side of the road waiting for assistance or experiencing a worse fate, such as crashing.
- **Regularly check all fluid levels** — coolant, brakes, etc. – and replace worn tires. In an effort to save money, don't compromise on safety!
- **Be aware of your route; make sure your brakes are working well.** Plan ahead for steep climbs and long descents: there are many of them in Oregon! Being ready to use your lower gears for those downhill slogs can save wear and tear on your life-saving brakes.
- **Be prepared for changing conditions**, such as wildfire road closures, crashes that close high-volume roads and summer storms that can bring traffic to a halt. Bring an emergency kit with roadside assistance equipment, a first aid kit and tools.
- **Watch for agricultural equipment.** Summer and fall are busy harvest times in Oregon, so stay alert for these slow-moving vehicles.
- **Ask questions!** Our inspectors and enforcement officers are ready to help you understand what's different about Oregon and how you can keep safe and steady on the road.
- **Use TripCheck.com.** Traffic condition updates and diagrams are posted on Oregon's travel information site. Road condition information is also available by phone. From within Oregon, call 511 or 1-800-977-ODOT (6368). From outside Oregon, dial 503- 588-2941.

For more information on commercial driving in Oregon, visit the [Commerce and Compliance Division](#) of ODOT.



Sharing the road with trucks

KEY TAKEAWAYS

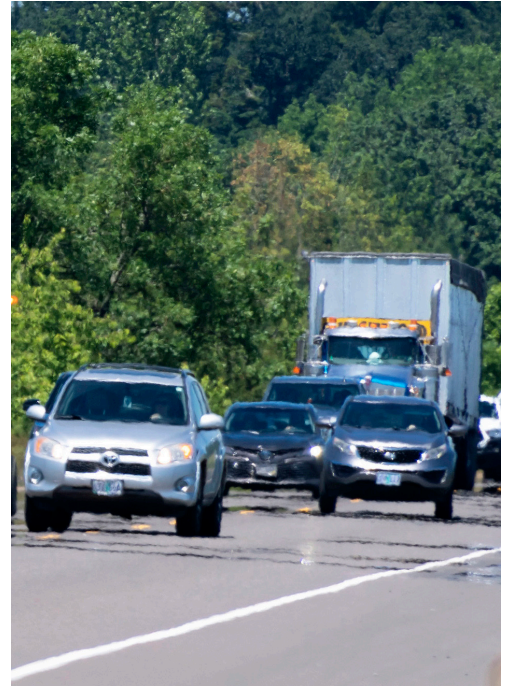
- Trucks have blind spots. Make yourself visible: If you can't see the truck's mirrors, the driver can't see you.
- Don't get between a pilot car and a big or oversize truck.
- Allow trucks plenty of space to maneuver. Keep a safety cushion between your car and the truck.

Additional resources:

- Graphic: [No Zones](#)

Safety rules aren't one size fits all when it comes to sharing the road with extra wide, tall or heavy vehicles. Super size loads require special attention.

- Large trucks have blind spots, or 'No Zones,' around the front, back and sides of the truck. Stay out of the 'No Zone.' Make your car visible by either pulling ahead or dropping back so the driver can see you. If you can't see the truck's mirrors, the truck driver can't see you.
- Pilot cars in front or in back of a large truck serve as a buffer between the load and other vehicles. Allow them space to do their jobs. Don't get between a pilot car and a big truck.
- Allow trucks adequate space to maneuver. A super sized truck can take 400 feet — more than the length of a football field to stop. Trucks make wide turns at intersections and require additional lanes to turn. Keep a safety cushion between your car and the truck.
- Watch for large loads when merging on to the highway. Look ahead and behind, using mirrors and checking blind spots to merge into traffic quickly and safely.



Additional tips

- Don't cut off trucks. For safety's sake, maintain one car length for every 10 miles per hour of speed.
- Don't tailgate. Unlike cars, trucks have large blind spots behind them. Drivers who tailgate trucks can't see traffic ahead. If the truck brakes suddenly, you won't have time to react and no place to go.
- Don't speed. Speed is a leading cause of all fatal crashes in Oregon.
- Car-at-fault truck crashes are primarily due to cars driving in truck blind spots or traffic violations by car drivers, such as: speeding, tailgating, failure to yield and negligent or reckless driving.



Help spread the word about safe summer travel in Oregon

The social media copy and photo resources on this page are intended for federal, state and local partners across Oregon in transportation, emergency response, law enforcement, travel/tourism and safety programs to use for promoting safe summer travel tips and trip-planning resources in their region. You can copy the posts as is, or use them to inspire your own safety and resource messaging.

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Work zone barriers for bikes, pedestrians](#)
- Photo: [Night work](#)
- Graphic: [TripCheck screen shot](#)
- Graphic: [TripCheck infographic](#)

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Traffic Operations Center](#)
- Photo: [Wildfire near Ashland](#)
- Photo: [Pothole patching](#)

Additional resources:

- Photo: [I-84 at Cabbage Hill](#)
- Photo: [Attenuator truck](#)
- Photo: [Oregonian crossing - Share the road!](#)

Know Before You Go:

X/Twitter:

Oregon Summer = Summer road work. Plan your route and allow extra time for unexpected delays or construction. Visit @OregonDOT's [TripCheck.com](#) for real-time traffic updates and route planning tools! #PlanAhead #RoadTrip

Facebook/Instagram:

Plan your Oregon road trip with confidence. Visit [TripCheck.com](#) to view maps updated in real-time (by actual @OregonDOT dispatchers!) with info including road conditions, color-coded traffic speeds, trouble spots, weather, construction, maintenance and traffic incidents. You'll also find high-impact incidents prominently displayed as "alerts." Use #TripCheck to stay informed and plan your Oregon road trip with ease. #KnowBeforeYouGo #RoadTripReady

Twitter:

Get #RoadTripReady with [TripCheck.com](#)! Visit @OregonDOT's mobile-friendly travel information website for real-time road and weather updates. Looking for trip inspiration? TripCheck links to detailed info on scenic byways, safety rest areas and car-free options!

Report It:

Facebook/Instagram:

Need to report an Oregon highway hazard? It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Report a highway hazard to @OregonDOT @ORStatePolice shared dispatch by dialing *OSP.
2. Report a brush fire or wildfire. Dial 911 for any type of fire, roadside or otherwise.
3. Report a highway pothole? All you have to do is #AskODOT! Dial 1-888-ASK-ODOT for @OregonDOT's highly-rated customer service hotline.

Summer Safety:

Facebook/Instagram:

Oregon, you know winter driving means increased risk. Here's what you might not know: Oregon's summer months are among our deadliest for drivers. Don't ignore summertime hazards. Learn how you can stay safe and prepared on Oregon's highways by visiting @OregonDOT's summer travel page: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#)

X/Twitter:

Summer travel is for everyone! Stay alert for people biking, walking or rolling. Share the road and give fellow travelers plenty of space. Learn more about bicycle and pedestrian safety and laws: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Pedestrian and Bicycle Program : Programs : State of Oregon](#)
#ShareTheRoad

X/Twitter:

Don't let distracted driving steer you toward tragedy. Put your phone away, keep your eyes on the road, and avoid eating, drinking or grooming while driving. Learn more about the dangers of distracted driving: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Distracted Driving : Safety : State of Oregon](#)
#DriveFocused #DistractedDriving

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Mom and baby escorted at a crosswalk in a construction zone](#)
- Photo: [Night work](#)
- Photo: [Attenuator truck](#)

Work Zone Safety**X/Twitter:**

Stay safe on the road this summer when approaching and traveling through work zones. Slow down, and pay attention to flaggers and signage. Find more safe summer travel tips from @OregonDOT, here: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#) #WorkZoneSafety #SummerTravelTips

X/Twitter:

Want to avoid work zones this summer? Use [TripCheck.com](#) to plan your route and stay updated on construction and traffic conditions from @OregonDOT. #PlanAhead #SummerTravelTips

X/Twitter:

Workers in work zones are doing their jobs to improve our roads. Please give them space and respect. Slow down and stay alert. #RespectWorkers #WorkZoneSafety

Facebook/Instagram:

Remember that work zones are temporary, but the benefits of improved roads and infrastructure will last for years to come. Spread the word about #WorkZoneSafety and #SafeSummerTravel tips to your friends and family. Let's work together to make our roads safe for everyone. [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#)

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Touring Port Orford](#)
- Photo: [Riding in the bike lane](#)
- Photo: [Cyclist and a sharrow](#)
- Photo: [Oregonian crossing - Share the road!](#)
- Graphic: [Sharrow](#)

Bicycle Safety**Facebook/Instagram:**

Let's all do our part to keep each other safe on the road. Drivers, remember that the faster you drive, the more likely you are to cause a serious crash with a person on a bike. Bicyclists, be aware of your surroundings and ride safely. Find more summer biking and driving tips here: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#) #SafetyFirst #ShareTheRoad

X/Twitter:

Summer is here! Let's make sure everyone can enjoy the beautiful weather safely. Remember to obey traffic laws, respect each other's rights and be courteous on the road. Review your responsibilities on the road: [Oregon Department of Transportation : DMV Manuals & Publications :](#)

[Oregon Driver & Motor Vehicle Services : State of Oregon](#) #ShareTheRoad #SafeSummerTravel

X/Twitter:

The sun is out, expect bikes! Top tip for drivers: When you see a sharrow marking on the road, expect a person on a bike to take the lane. Give them space and be patient. Review your responsibilities on the road: [Oregon Department of Transportation : DMV Manuals & Publications : Oregon Driver & Motor Vehicle Services : State of Oregon](#) #ShareTheRoad #RoadSafety

Additional resources:

- Photo: [Stepping off the curb](#)
- Photo: [Using a crosswalk](#)
- Photo: [Neighborhood walk](#)
- Photo: [Oregonian crossing - Share the road!](#)
- Video: [Rapid flash beacon](#)

Pedestrian Safety

Facebook/Instagram:

Drivers, remember to look out for pedestrians at every intersection — even if it's not marked with crosswalk lines! Keep pedestrians safe and avoid a fine of over \$250 by stopping for them. Find summer safety tips from @OregonDOT, here: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#) #WatchOutForPedestrians #CrosswalkLaws #SafetyFirst

Facebook/Instagram:

Attention pedestrians! Did you know that every corner where two roads intersect is a crosswalk? Whether marked or unmarked, make sure to cross safely and with intent. Don't forget to look both ways and stay alert! Safe summer tips for all the ways you travel: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#) #PedestrianSafety #CrosswalkLaws #BeAlert

X/Twitter:

Let's work together to create safer roads for everyone! Whether you drive, walk, or roll, remember to look out for each other and follow Oregon crosswalk law. Together we can make a difference! Find summer travel tips: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Summer Storybook : State of Oregon](#) #WatchOutForEachOther #CommunityEffort

Additional resources:

- Photos: [Summer photo album on Flickr](#)
- Videos: [Summer video playlist on YouTube](#)

ODOT social media accounts:

X/Twitter (@oregondot):
x.com/OregonDOT

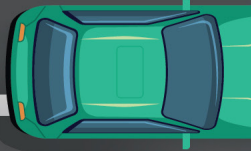
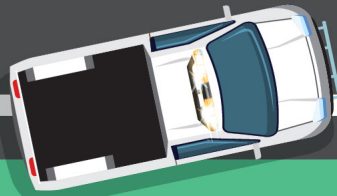
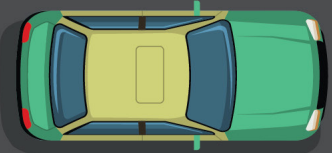
Facebook:
facebook.com/OregonDOT

YouTube:
youtube.com/OregonDOT

Instagram:
instagram.com/OregonDOT



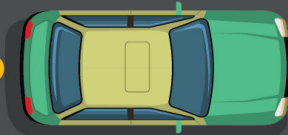
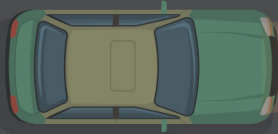
**MOVE
OVER**



**FOR ODOT
MAINTENANCE**

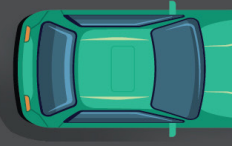
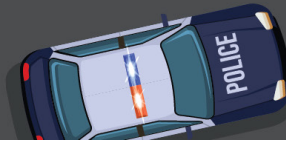
Slow Down. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety – ODOT

MOVE OVER

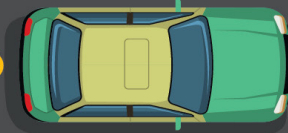
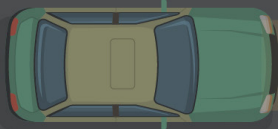


FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Slow Down. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety – ODOT

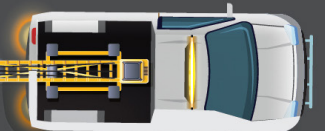
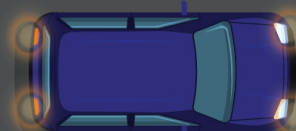


MOVE OVER

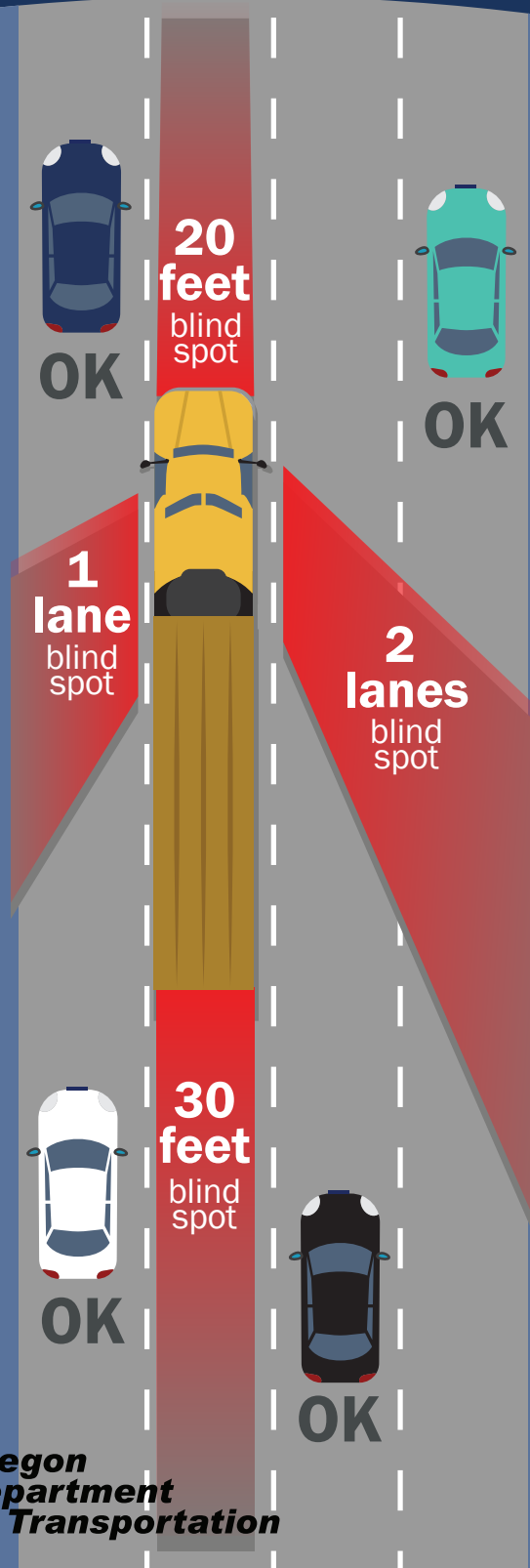


FOR TOW TRUCKS AND VEHICLES WITH THEIR HAZARDS ON

Slow Down. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety – ODOT



STAY OUT OF A TRUCK'S **NO ZONES**



ZIPPER MERGE

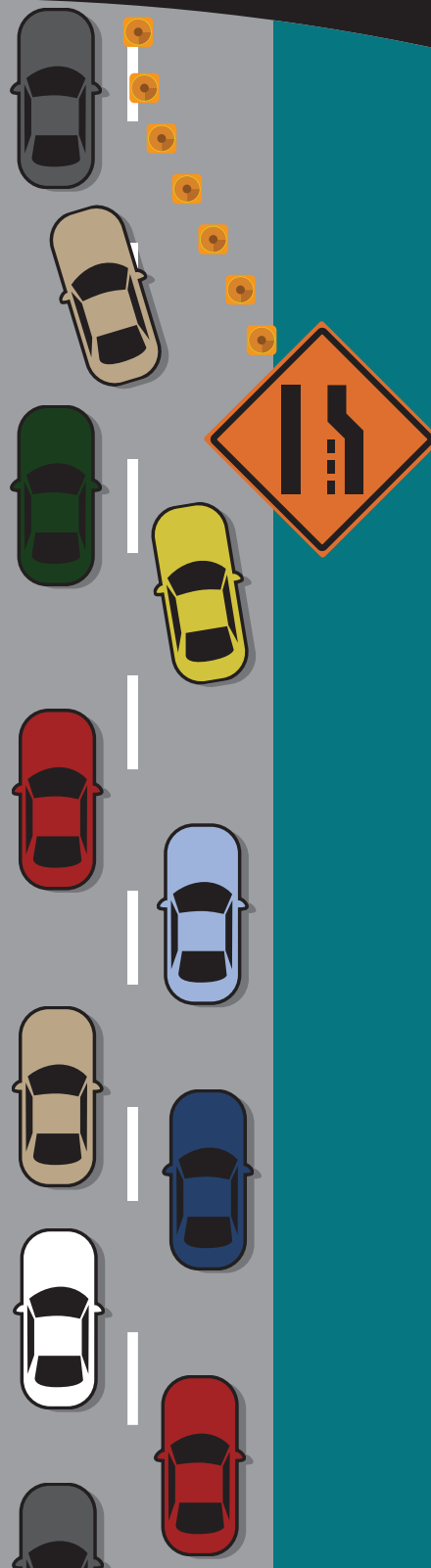
The *nice* way to merge in construction zones

Drivers stay in their current lane until the designated merge point.

Drivers take turns moving into the open lane.

A zipper merge is much safer and more efficient than merging early.

Be respectful of those waiting to merge. They're doing it right!



OREGON

WORK ZONE FAST FACTS

In 2024 there were:

621 *Total work zone crashes.*

36 *Crashes with serious injuries.*

12 *People who died in work zone crashes*

**SLOW DOWN
DRIVE SAFELY THROUGH
WORK ZONES**



OREGON

WORK ZONE FAST FACTS

Top causes of work zone crashes:

- 1. Speed**
- 2. Inattention**
- 3. Ignoring Traffic Signs**

**SLOW DOWN
DRIVE SAFELY THROUGH
WORK ZONES**



Safe Summer Cycling

For people on bikes:

- Ride a well-maintained bike.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright clothing for visibility.
- Follow the rules of the road.
- Plan your route for safety.
- Keep an eye on the weather.
- Ride smart, be safe.
- Stay hydrated.
- Enjoy the ride!



Safe Summer Cycling

For people driving:

- Look for sharrows, share the road.
- Expect to see people on bikes.
- Look both ways at intersections.
- Use your mirrors.
- Be careful when opening doors.
- Slow down.



WHAT DO YOU GET ON TRIPCHECK?



TRAFFIC CAMERAS

More than 700 images from cameras statewide and neighboring states.



INCIDENT ALERTS

Real time alerts for weather, construction and crashes.



SPEED MAP

Current travel times for key highway connections in the Portland metro area.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Roadside services, travel options, Waze reports and more!



CUSTOMIZED INFO

Ability to create and bookmark custom camera pages, get alerts.

**Take your
knowledge
test online at
DMV2U.**



Summer Travel Checklist



Be sure your car is in good working order before you travel.

Be prepared with:

- Emergency kit**
 - Rechargeable flashlight
 - Fire extinguisher and shovel
 - Jumper cables
 - First aid kit
- Food and clothing**
 - Sunglasses
 - Extra food and water
 - A hat for sun protection
 - Warm clothes, just in case
 - Blanket
- Other essentials**
 - Cell phone, charger, car adapter
 - Your car's owner manual
 - Extra washer fluid
 - Paper towels
 - Pocket knife
 - Road maps
 - High SPF Sunscreen



Summer Travel Checklist



Be sure your car is in good working order before you travel.

Check your car's systems:





Reporting hazards

How do I report issues on state highways?

For emergencies, including hazards or debris or impaired drivers on the highway call Oregon State Police dispatch at *677 (*OSP) or dial 911.

To report needed repairs such as potholes or damaged signs [contact our Ask ODOT staff online](#) or call 1-888-275-6368 (1-888-ASK-ODOT).

How do I report unsafe operation of a commercial truck?

Call the Truck Safety Hotline 1-800-248-6782 or use the online form to report a truck speeding, tailgating, changing lanes unsafely, or spilling its load. This service is provided by ODOT's Commerce and Compliance Division. For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.

How do I report dirty or unsafe conditions at a rest area?

Many of the safety rest areas along state highways and freeways are managed by the Oregon Travel Information Council. Contact them at 877-527-6560. To determine who operates a Safety Rest Area go to Tripcheck.com and open the Travel Center drop-down menu.

