



May 9, 2013

For more information: Kimberly Dinwiddie, 503-731-8281, Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us
Don Hamilton, 503-731-8265, Don.B.Hamilton@odot.state.or.us

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Friday night tunnel washing will slow U.S. 26 traffic

Traffic in the Vista Ridge Tunnel will be down to one lane with all lanes open by 5 am Saturday

Motorists should expect delays in both directions in the Vista Ridge Tunnel on U.S. 26 late Friday and early Saturday as ODOT crews wash the tunnel walls.

The cleaning will get under way at 9 p.m. Friday with traffic restricted to one lane while the work is under way. All lanes should be open and the job completed by 5 a.m. Saturday.

ODOT cleans the tunnel walls twice a year.

##ODOT##

PORTLAND -- Loads no wider than 11 feet, 0 inches will be allowed through the Vista Ridge Tunnel from 9 p.m. Friday May 10 until 5 a.m. the following morning while ODOT crews wash the tunnel walls.

In addition, the Southwest Market Street on-ramp to westbound U.S. 26 will be closed during the same hours.

ODOT washes the tunnel walls every six months.

U.S. 26 Mt. Hood traffic stops and a boom Thursday

Controlled blasting and tree removal requires traffic stops and flagging near Tollgate Trailhead

ODOT crews will make some noise on Thursday, May 7 as they use explosives to remove a hazardous cedar tree that is threatening U.S. 26 near the Tollgate Trailhead.

People in the area should expect loud noises, the sound of a boom, and traffic delays Thursday. While the blasting will occur in the morning, travelers should expect traffic delays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crews will start flagging traffic as early as 7 a.m. The blast will take place between 8-10 a.m. During the blast, crews will stop traffic a safe distance away from the blasting area.

Once the controlled blasting operation is complete, crews will flag traffic around the downed tree as they work to remove it from the highway.

Controlled blasting is a common method to hazardous trees when other cutting methods appear to put workers at greater risk.

##ODOT##