



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Region 1 *Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas
and Hood River Counties*

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ODOT CAUTIONS MOTORISTS: DRIVE SAFELY DURING HOLIDAY PERIOD

Oregon Department of Transportation officials today cautioned motorists to pay special attention to safety as the Memorial Day weekend approaches and residents and visitors face the start of a busy summer travel season on Oregon's highways.

"Please buckle up and be prepared," said Jason Tell, ODOT Region Manager in Portland.

"Many people will be traveling during the holiday weekend. We want all of you to arrive at your destinations safe and sound."

Holiday travelers should drive defensively and make sure everyone in the vehicle uses a safety belt. Drivers also should take advantage of Oregon's approximately six dozen Safety Rest Areas to stay rested and alert.

Roadwork suspended over Memorial Day weekend

The department will suspend construction activities that impact traffic for the long holiday period. But motorists still must pay attention to the orange construction signs, detours, lane restrictions and speed limit signs in work zones.

COMET vehicles will patrol during holiday weekend

ODOT's Portland-area incident response program, COMET, will maintain its service to motorists during the Memorial Day weekend. The main goals of the program are to keep Portland-area freeways clear from incidents and minimize disruptions to traffic flow.

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COMET trucks focus on three areas of traffic management: incident prevention such as clearing disabled vehicles, road hazards and debris; motorist assistance such as flat tire repair, battery jump or providing a gallon of gas; and on-scene incident management to provide safe, efficient traffic flow around an accident.

If you break down on a Portland-area highway, stay with your disabled vehicle if possible. If you do leave your vehicle, turn on your emergency flashers and leave a note explaining that your car is temporarily disabled. For safety reasons, ODOT immediately removes vehicles abandoned in travel lanes.

Preparation: Keys to your safe trip

The Oregon State Police and ODOT have a few suggestions to make your holiday travel safer:

- ◆ Plan your route before you leave; visit www.TripCheck.com to avoid traffic snags, work zones and inclement road and weather conditions
- ◆ Allow plenty of time to reach your destination
- ◆ Always wear safety belts and use child-safety and booster seats
- ◆ Never drink and drive; don't allow someone else to do so
- ◆ Adjust driving habits according to road, traffic and weather conditions
- ◆ Avoid confrontations with other motorists
- ◆ Obey speed limits

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