

SAFE TRAVEL:
Traffic expected
to break records

Continued from page 3

driving conditions. Know when traction tires are required by visiting www.tripcheck.com. Too often these mountain-pass crashes are caused by those not using traction tires. These crashes cause delays that last hours at times. If chains are the traction device, know how to install or use them. Too often we find motorists struggling in deep snow and below-freezing conditions attempting to put them on for the first time.

OSP is also urging motorists to plan their travels:

- Expect heavy traffic volumes. Take extra time to reach your destination.
- Visit ODOT’s traveler page, www.tripcheck.com.
- Be prepared in the event you become stuck during your travels — Carry water, food, and blankets in the event you are stuck in your vehicle during your trip.
- Get a designated driver (plan ahead) if you plan on consuming intoxicating substances.
- Put the distractions away. Pull over to use that handheld electronic device, ask a passenger to help, or wait to arrive at your destination to use them.
- Watch your speed; often speeding will not get you to your destination any faster. You will fatigue faster, burn more fuel, and create a more hazardous environment on the highway.
- Be extra-vigilant in highway work zones. Even when workers are not present, all work-zone speed limits still apply and fines double. Inactive work zones still have equipment, detours, and incomplete changes in the roadway, so drivers need to slow down and be alert.
- Get rested before you travel. Fatigued drivers are more frequent during holiday weekends because of increased travel and activity. Be patient and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Wear your safety belt. Ensure your passengers and children are properly restrained, too. In many crashes, people would have walked away with minor if any injuries, had they been wearing their safety belts.

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FIRE: Agencies
cooperated in
stopping blaze

Continued from page 1

people at the time of the fire. Every fire engine rolled out the door full of firefighters.”

Five emergency response vehicles from Sisters responded to the fire with 14 firefighters. Four additional firefighters responded to the station to stand by for additional calls.

Automatic aid agreements between Sisters, Black Butte Ranch and Cloverdale fire districts worked well during the fire, with each agency sending resources to the scene. When fires occur in Sisters the other agencies are dispatched automatically. The agencies train together and utilize standardized

operational procedures and communications.

Chief Johnson said, “This was a perfect example of how well the agencies are working together. Chief Olsen from Cloverdale was blocks away when the 911 call was received and drove directly to the fire and assumed command of the operation. Chief Olsen directed incoming Sisters units until command was transferred to Sisters chief officers. It was a textbook example of how coordination and cooperation can benefit our community.”

The Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal assisted with the fire cause determination. The fire is believed to be accidental.

The homeowners are insured and there is no damage estimate available at this time. The Red Cross also responded to the scene.

Learning from local firefighters...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Students explored apparatus at the Sisters High School Fire/EMS class last week.

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