



Keep a safe distance from plows and sanders

Drivers who try to pass on the right when a snowplow is in operation run the risk of damaging their vehicles, hitting the snowplow, or even going off the road. With ODOT's new dual-wing plows and tow plows, passing on the left can also lead to disaster.

On state highways, passing a snowplow on the right is illegal. On most Oregon highways, snowplows have "wing" plows that stick out more than 8 feet from the right side of the truck. With dual-wing trucks a plow blade could also be in the left lane. In addition, the snow being plowed or blown off the road can contain rocks and other debris damaging to vehicles.

The road behind the snowplow is in much better condition than the road ahead. If conditions are severe enough to require the attention of a snowplow, you should use extra care when trying to accelerate and pass other vehicles. Ruts in the snow can grab tires and icy conditions can make it



difficult to control the vehicle at higher speeds.

Drivers should give winter maintenance vehicles such as plows and sanders a wide berth. They travel slowly but pull over periodically to let traffic pass. The best advice is to stay three car lengths behind and give yourself more time to get where you are going.

Mobile device users can view a two-minute video on general ODOT snow removal maintenance practices by scanning this QR code.



New this year - reflective signs, lights

ODOT is testing out new lights and reflective signs on some winter maintenance equipment to make them more visible to you. Watch for these shiny, attention getting enhancements and let us know what you think. Give us a call at 541-963-1330.

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