

A crash is no accident

Over 94 percent of all motor vehicle crashes are related to operator error. When it comes to impaired driving, there is no such thing as an “accident.” These crashes are 100 percent preventable. The word “accident” by definition is an event that was unexpected or unintentional.

Allowing this perception to continue in the world of impaired driving removes the accountability for the choices we make as drivers and motorcycle riders.

Our decisions have consequences... for ourselves, our families and for every other person on the road. By calling a crash a crash, we are describing what it is, without motive and without blame – but also without the implication that a person who may be responsible simply had no control or intent to cause harm, when, in fact, their choices, decisions and actions were the direct cause. This holiday season and every day of the year, please celebrate responsibly.

Maintenance levels of service

When the weather is at its worst, ODOT's statewide Winter Level of Service Plan goes into effect. It establishes anti-icing/de-icing, sanding, and plowing priorities for state highways. Priorities are based on safety, the relative amounts of traffic that the highways typically carry and the anticipated impact to commerce and industry.

There are five Statewide Levels of Service. Highways tagged for high-volume priority service are plowed first, such as Interstate 84 and I-82; medium- and low- volume highways are handled as soon as possible thereafter.

When winter weather hits, we'll work around the clock. But remember: our goal is to keep roads passable, not completely free of ice and snow.

Clean up operations begin as bad weather clears. It normally takes 4-8 weeks to remove all the sanding material that was placed on the road. One advantage of using salt is that less sanding rock is needed. This results in less material to clean up, giving crews more time to address other needs of the highway.

ODOT's winter maintenance practices may not reflect the practices used on county or city roadways. Contact your city or county for that information.

Know Before You Go: Visit www.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.



Public meetings for Draft 2021-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to be held spring 2020

Formal Public Outreach Meetings for the Draft 2021-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program will be held during spring 2020.

Watch for media announcements listing meeting locations and times. In eastern Oregon, video conference meetings to discuss the draft program are typically held in: Boardman; Pendleton; Enterprise; La Grande; Baker City; Ontario; John Day; and Burns.

Options to connect via the internet will also be available, so you can learn about the proposed projects from the comfort of your home. For more information on when these meetings will be scheduled and specific meeting locations, please contact ODOT

Region 5 Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330. More information about this meeting in eastern Oregon will also be posted on the ODOT Region 5 website at www.tinyurl.com/odot-region5. Can't find it? Give Tom a call.

What is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is the document that identifies what projects are to be funded in a giving four-year construction cycle. Details about this document, and the processes used for project selection and funding are located on ODOT's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/STIP/Pages/default.aspx>.



0118-063

Paul Swigert



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

541-963-2768 • 1212 ADAMS AVE

AUTO, HOME, AND COMMERCIAL POLICIES ISSUED BY COUNTRY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY®. COUNTRY CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY®. OR COUNTRY FIRE/CRIME INSURANCE COMPANY®. LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES ISSUED BY COUNTRY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY® AND COUNTRY INVESTORS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY®. FIXED ANNUITIES ISSUED BY COUNTRY INVESTORS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY®. ISSUING COMPANIES LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON, IL.