

Use common sense when GPS navigation detour routes are given

When roads are closed and your GPS navigation system is directing you onto a detour route, keep in mind that the device you count on for guidance could instead guide you into trouble. Most navigation tools don't take into consideration current road or weather conditions. They may direct you onto remote and un-serviced roads that are not maintained or passable in all weather conditions.

Navigation systems and similar smart phone apps are great tools, but travelers may need to verify the identified detour route is appropriate given current conditions and the vehicle they are driving. Here are a few tips to consider:

What you can do

- Be aware that the app on your phone or in your GPS device might not have the latest information – don't follow it blindly!
- Use TripCheck.com (on your computer and on your phone) to get the latest on state road conditions.
- Remember, in winter conditions (as in summer's fire season conditions), roads can be impassable, so **USE COMMON SENSE**.
- If you are not familiar with an area and current road conditions, stay on state roads and don't attempt detours onto roads you don't know.
- Alter your travel plans. If you are not 100 percent sure of the route and road conditions your GPS device is directing you to, ask local folks for information and consult a map. It is better to stay the night in town, rather than be stuck on a remote road in the middle of nowhere.

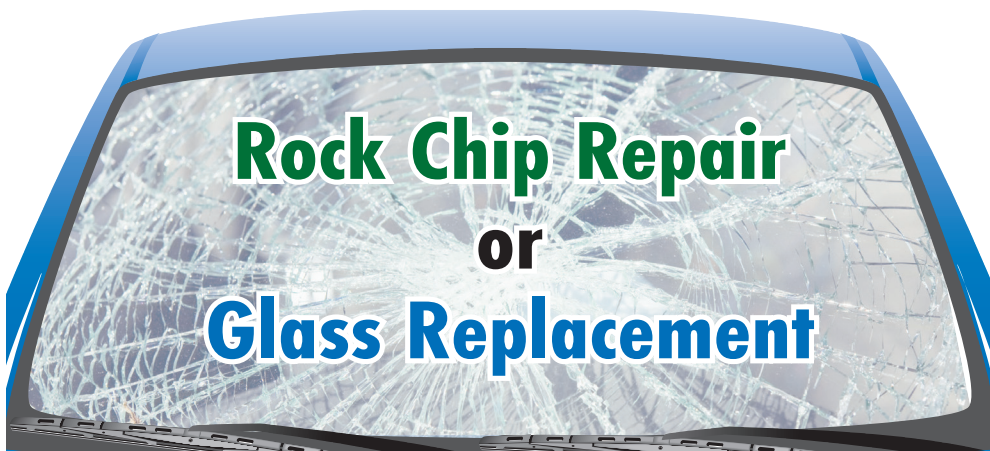
What we will do

- ODOT crews continually work to keep state highways safe, but during certain conditions, such as blowing snow and freezing temperatures, you may want to avoid travel altogether.
- ODOT will issue media flash alerts if roads are closed and these will be updated continually on TripCheck.com.



Snow covered everything at the ODOT Austin Maintenance station last winter.

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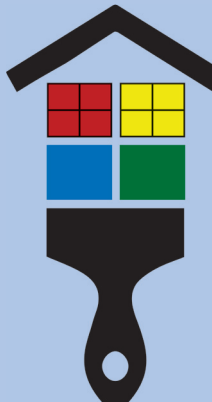
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Steer Clear of Winter Hazards

- ✓ Check coolant and antifreeze levels.
- ✓ Check tire pressure and treads.
- ✓ Check windshield wipers, and use winter-grade fluid.
- ✓ Keep a blanket, gloves, bag of sand, flashlight, flares and ice scraper in your vehicle.



Conklin Insurance Agency Inc

Nate E. Conklin, Agent

1112 Adams Ave
 La Grande, OR 97850
 Bus 541-963-0929 Fax 541-963-0940
nate.conklin.rnpj@statefarm.com
www.nateconklin.com
 NMLS #139716 NMLS MLO #392538 MLO License #392538



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