

Increased oil shipments mean new inspectors

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon will have four new railroad inspectors by January to check tracks, hazardous materials shipments and railroad companies’ compliance with other federal regulations.

The new hires will bring the total number of state railway inspectors to 11. There are also nine Federal Railroad Administration inspectors in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Transportation hired the compliance specialists in response to concerns about increased crude-by-rail shipments through Oregon and several oil train derailments and explosions elsewhere in the United States and Canada.

Michael Lang, conservation director for Friends of the Columbia Gorge, said the addition of new inspectors is a positive development. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has raised concerns about increased oil-by-rail shipments through the gorge and elsewhere in Oregon.

“We celebrate having more inspectors,” Lang said. “It won’t solve the problem obviously, but it’s important to have inspectors.”

Oregon’s rail inspection program is voluntary. The Federal Railroad Administration has inspectors in Oregon

and other states, and states can also sign agreements with the federal agency so that local inspectors can also enforce federal railroad laws.

The new inspectors are going through extensive classroom and field training and must be certified by the Federal Railroad Administration before they can conduct inspections alone, according to ODOT. John Johnson, manager of rail safety for ODOT, said the agency started hiring the additional inspectors in May.

“We plan to have them certified by the first of the year,” Johnson said.

Former Gov. John Kitzhaber requested the additional inspectors last year, and Johnson said ODOT finally hired them after completing a process to transfer vacant jobs from other agencies to the transportation department.

The new inspectors will begin work at a time when thousands of carloads of oil still enter the state each year, although the shipments appear to have leveled off as oil prices dropped.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific trains carried 24,199 carloads of crude oil, natural gas and natural gasoline on Oregon rail lines in 2014, a 340 percent increase from 5,491 carloads in 2012, according to data from ODOT. Crude



oil accounts for the majority of that figure and although ODOT does not yet have data for 2015, convention wisdom is that oil shipments through Oregon declined this year, according to agency spokeswoman Shelley Snow.

A different metric, reports that railways filed with the State Fire Marshal’s Office, showed the short line Portland and Western Railroad expected to move fewer large shipments of oil this year from North Dakota’s Bakken formation through Multnomah and Columbia counties to the Port Westward export terminal near Clatskanie.

In June 2014, the railroad told the state it expected three trains per week with at least 1 million gallons of North Dakota crude, the equivalent of approximately 35 tank cars, to move through the counties. By February, the railroad lowered the weekly estimate to a range of zero to three trains per week.

The reports provide only a partial picture of oil shipments, because the U.S. Department of Transportation only requires the reports for Bakken oil-by-rail shipments 1 million gallons or larger and railways only file the reports

when the volume increases or decreases 25 percent from the previous report.

Lang said he expects the amount of oil shipped on trains through the Columbia River gorge and entire Northwest region will only increase in the future. He cited a report by the Sightline Institute that there are 15 existing or planned export terminals and refineries in Oregon and Washington, plus the potential for a new oil terminal in Longview, Wash.

“Honestly, in the foreseeable future, we don’t see significant decreases in the consumption of oil,” Lang said.

ODOT wanted inspectors who have prior experience working with trains, and one inspector is a former railroad general manager. Another is a former assistant general manager of a railroad, the third has 31 years of experience enforcing federal track regulations at a transit agency, and the fourth inspector was previously a city fire marshal.

“It’s a high-level position, so we expect a lot of background experience before we allow them out in the field,” Johnson said.

It can take more than a year for railroad inspectors to obtain federal certification. The new hires’ previous experience with trains “aided us in reducing the time it takes to get them through the on the job training schedule,” Johnson said. The Federal Railroad Administration paid for the new state inspectors to attend out-of-state classes, and the inspectors have shadowed both state and federal inspectors in the field.



Oregon Department of Transportation
Chris Kuenzi, a hazardous materials specialist with the Oregon Department of Transportation, demonstrates how he inspects service valves on a tank car. ODOT hired four additional rail inspectors starting in May in response to concerns about increased oil-by-rail shipments. The new employees are in training and could be ready to begin inspecting rail operations in January.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight

Clear

47°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

Tuesday

Partly sunny

66° 46°

Wednesday

Clouds limiting sun

68° 50°

Thursday

Partly sunny

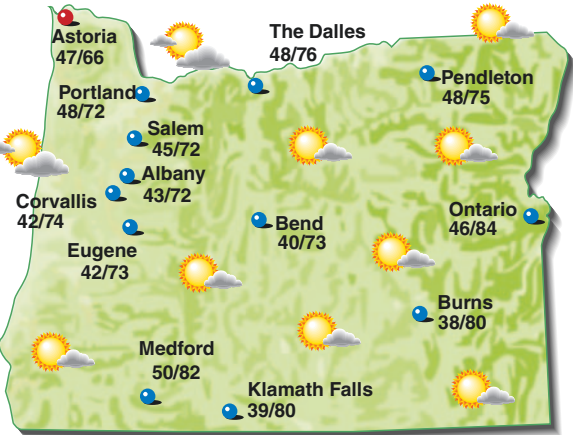
70° 54°

Friday

Mainly cloudy with a little rain

65° 50°

Oregon Weather



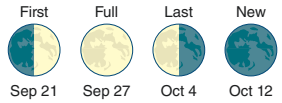
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

Almanac

Astoria through Sunday.	
Temperatures	
High	68°
Low	57°
Normal high	67°
Normal low	49°
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.10"
Month to date	1.88"
Normal month to date	1.26"
Year to date	30.99"
Normal year to date	39.36"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	7:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday	7:02 a.m.
Moonrise today	2:54 p.m.
Moonset today	none



AccuWeather.com

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: The first quarter moon at 11:41 p.m. PDT, is half way between the new and full moon.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks	
Time	High
9:25 a.m.	6.0 ft.
8:33 p.m.	7.4 ft.
Time	Low
2:39 a.m.	0.8 ft.
2:46 p.m.	3.0 ft.

Regional Cities

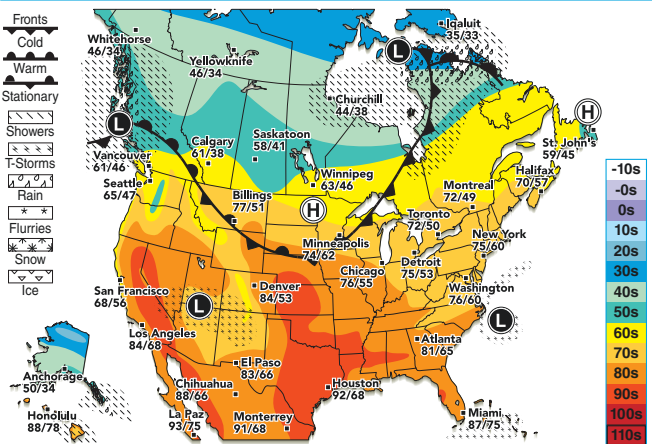
Today		Tues.	
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	
Baker City	75 38 s	78 37 s	
Bend	74 40 s	73 38 s	
Brookings	69 51 s	68 50 s	
Eugene	74 42 s	73 40 s	
Ilwaco	63 53 s	62 50 pc	
Klamath Falls	83 39 s	80 37 s	
Medford	86 50 s	82 47 s	
Newport	65 45 s	63 46 pc	
North Bend	68 50 s	64 46 s	

Today		Tues.	
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	
Olympia	68 39 pc	67 40 pc	
Pendleton	75 48 s	75 47 s	
Portland	72 48 s	72 48 pc	
Roseburg	77 49 pc	77 45 s	
Salem	74 45 s	72 44 pc	
Seaside	64 50 s	63 48 pc	
Spokane	70 46 s	72 46 pc	
Vancouver	70 45 s	70 44 pc	
Yakima	79 40 s	78 41 pc	

National Cities

Today		Tues.	
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	
Atlanta	82 66 c	81 65 c	
Boston	66 57 s	68 54 c	
Chicago	71 50 s	76 55 s	
Denver	89 54 s	84 53 pc	
Des Moines	79 62 s	84 65 pc	
Detroit	72 50 s	75 53 s	
El Paso	79 65 c	83 66 t	
Fairbanks	44 28 c	42 24 c	
Honolulu	87 78 pc	88 78 pc	
Indianapolis	75 50 s	79 54 s	
Kansas City	79 65 s	85 66 pc	
Las Vegas	99 74 pc	89 70 r	
Los Angeles	89 71 c	84 68 t	
Memphis	85 60 s	87 62 s	
Miami	88 76 pc	87 75 s	
Nashville	80 54 pc	84 57 s	
New Orleans	84 72 pc	87 73 s	
New York	73 61 pc	75 60 c	
Oklahoma City	86 66 pc	89 66 pc	
Philadelphia	74 62 pc	76 57 c	
St. Louis	79 59 s	84 61 s	
Salt Lake City	84 60 s	86 62 c	
San Francisco	83 58 pc	68 56 s	
Seattle	66 48 pc	65 47 pc	
Washington, DC	72 61 sh	76 60 c	

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice



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Deaths

Sept. 18, 2015

WILDER, Charles Harbison “Charlie,” 75, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 19, 2015

RICHTER, Dorothy Anne, 83, of Ocean Park, Wash., died in Ocean Park. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MORGAN, Jade Marie, 16, of Astoria, died as a result of a car accident near Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Public meetings

MONDAY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 1 p.m., public comment meeting, Oregon LNG, Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 92937 Walluski Loop.

Knappa School Board, 5:30 p.m., Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

Jewell School Board, 6

p.m., Jewell School library, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 6 p.m., public comment meeting, Oregon LNG, Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 92937 Walluski Loop.

Seaside City Council, workshop, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Astoria City Council, 7

p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Clatsop Care Health District Board, noon, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St.

Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Astoria Public Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Lotteries

OREGON

Sunday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 7-0-4-6

4 p.m.: 2-1-6-6

7 p.m.: 6-7-5-8

10 p.m.: 7-4-3-8

Saturday's Megabucks:

6-8-26-33-45-48
Estimated jackpot: \$3 million.

Saturday's Powerball: 12-17-26-43-48, Powerball: 24

Estimated jackpot: \$208 million.

Saturday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 1-0-2-1

4 p.m.: 8-6-6-4

7 p.m.: 8-5-2-1

10 p.m.: 7-8-0-4

Friday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 2-6-6-6

4 p.m.: 3-5-2-3

7 p.m.: 4-4-1-6

10 p.m.: 3-0-3-6

WASHINGTON

Sunday's Daily Game: 1-6-7

Sunday's Keno: 03-06-14-15-16-20-24-28-29-32-40-42-43-48-53-59-66-77-79-80

Sunday's Match 4: 02-09-14-18

Saturday's Daily Game: 2-9-9

Saturday's Hit 5: 18-31-34-35-36

Estimated jackpot: \$280,000.

Saturday's Keno: 02-04-

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The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 10 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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