

# Sheriffs offer tips for safely driving in winter weather

The dark and rainy season has arrived. For some people, driving in the rain — especially in the dark — is anxiety producing. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, there are an average of more than 950,000 automobile crashes each year due to wet pavement which results in approximately 4,700 deaths and 384,000 injuries. But being behind the wheel and a rain-covered windshield doesn't have to be a nerve-racking experience. Here are some

tips for driving in a downpour:

1. *Think.* We are all guilty of driving out of habit. So as a reminder, when it rains, we often need to adjust our thinking. When conditions are less than ideal, drivers need to stay alert and focused on what's going on around them.
2. *Turn on those headlights.* It's the law in all states to turn on headlights when visibility is low and many states also require having the headlights on when the windshield wipers are in use.

**Note:** Oregon does not require motorists to turn on headlights when wipers are used. Well-working wipers and relatively new (not threadbare) tires are also must-haves when driving in rain.

3. *Beware of hydroplaning.* That's what occurs when your tires are getting more traction on the layer of water on the road than on the road itself — the result is that your car begins to slide uncontrollably. It's easy enough to hydroplane:

All you need is one-twelfth of an inch of rain on the road and a speed of more than 35 miles per hour. If you start to hydroplane, let off the accelerator slowly and steer straight until you regain control.

4. *Turn off cruise control.* Ironically, on rain- or snow-slick surfaces, cruise control may cause you to lose control. You might think it'll help you stay at one steady speed, but if you hydroplane while you're in cruise control, your car will ac-

tually go faster.

5. *Slow down.* Speed limit signs are designed for ideal conditions. That means driving when you have little traffic and good visibility. That's hardly the environment you're driving in when it's raining, so let up on the accelerator and allow more time to get to your destination. For more information and tips, visit our website at [www.lincolncountysheriff.net](http://www.lincolncountysheriff.net).

## Life from A8

assignments, it can be a challenge for her family.

She said her daughter Abby comes every day and loves it. "I am incredibly grateful for the volunteers who keep

the center going," Stere said. "It's a great opportunity to get the kids out of the house and allow them to have social interaction

with other kids. With the center being a drop-in basis, my 14-year-old daughter, Izzy, has the option to come when she would like, and it allows them to have some more one-on-one help for their work. That lets my husband help our children who are at home a

little more too. "The volunteers are so positive and willing to help the kids with their school-work." McGowen believes the program benefits busy working parents with multiple school-age children at home.

"We want to ease the burden of parents by providing a great place for students to focus on schoolwork and have some interaction with their peers," McGowen said. "Some students need somewhere to go to better focus on learning other than at home. We hope academically, socially and emotionally we're helping students be successful with distance learning."

New said he's looking for more adult volunteers who enjoy spending time with youth and are willing to jump in and help with a lesson if needed. Ideally, they would like to double up on the center's staffing. "We want to get the word out that this resource is available to families," New said. "For those who live in rural areas that lack high-speed Internet or for those who have a student who needs greater supervision during the day to stay on track with their classes, this is a great option for them."

For more information, to donate to help with expenses or to volunteer, contact Richard New by email at [Richard@lcyfc.org](mailto:Richard@lcyfc.org) or by phone at 541-914-3025.

**The City of Cottage Grove Public Works Department will be conducting its annual Leaf Pickup during the following weeks:**

November 16th - 20th • November 30th - December 4th  
December 14th - 18th

**Tips for Leaf Placement in Street**

- ✓ Only piles of loose leaves will be picked up
- ✓ Pile leaves on the street surface near the gutter, keeping gutter and catch basins free of leaves so storm water is not obstructed
- ✓ On streets without curbs and gutter, pile the leaves near the street surface away from ditches
- ✓ Stack the leaves so that they don't block bike and traffic lanes
- ✓ Leaves should be piled in rows so they do not block the flow of water along the curb and do not encroach on the traffic lane
- ✓ Do **not** place leaves in the streets where curbside parking does not exist. You may bring those leaves to the designated area outside the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road
- ✓ Do **not** place your leaves in plastic bags
- ✓ Branches will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Shrub prunings and blackberry vines will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Do **not** include rocks, metal or other debris in your leaf pile
- ✓ Lawn clippings will **not** be picked up

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at (541)767-4100 during working hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

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