

## ODA extends deadline for pesticide use reporting

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has announced an extension of the deadline for reporting 2002 pesticide use to the Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) due to funding issues related to the development of the permanent system. The reporting deadline of Jan. 31, 2003 has been extended to April 30, 2003 for all those required to report their 2002 pesticide use.

Due to a lack of funds, development of a permanent electronic reporting system has been halted. A temporary system has been operating since the beginning of the year and will continue to accept electronic reporting of pesticide use at this time. However, the temporary system is limited in its capabilities and was not intended to handle the large number of reports expected as the original January deadline approached. In addition, the temporary system will not allow ODA to meet the requirements of the law to generate a statewide report on pesticide use by its July 1, 2003 deadline.

Concerned that those reporting their 2002 pesticide use on the temporary system may encounter difficulties, ODA has decided to extend the deadline. It is hoped that the additional time to report will ease the burden on users as well as on the temporary sys-

tem. Meanwhile, funding of the permanent system and other PURS-related issues are expected to be discussed by the 2003 Oregon Legislature when it convenes in January.

For more information on the Pesticide Use Reporting System or to file online reports, visit [oda.state.or.us/purs](http://oda.state.or.us/purs).

## ODOT advises safety near winter maintenance equipment

Winter snow and ice means Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) maintenance crews will be out in force with snow plows, snow blowers and sanding trucks to help improve winter driving conditions along major state highway routes. ODOT would like to remind motorists to drive with extra caution when operating vehicles near winter maintenance equipment.

ODOT's goal is to improve traction on steep hills, sharp corners and other known trouble spots along major highway routes. "We concentrate on those areas that can become the most treacherous," said Tom Strandberg, ODOT Region 5 Public Affairs Officer. "However, no amount of plowing and sanding can take the place of safe, responsible vehicle operation."

Winter maintenance activities may also differ for different areas. For instance, highway sections that received a chip seal application earlier this year can be damaged by snowplow blades. In these ar-

reas, metal risers may be used to keep the plow slightly above the pavement to protect the new surface. Because of the need to protect these new pavement surfaces, motorists may see some areas that are plowed down to the pavement and others that are not. "This is not new, but we like to remind winter travelers, so they can be better prepared," Strandberg said.

"The reason snow plows and sanding trucks are on the road is because it is slippery. We will do what we can to improve traction, but everyone still needs to slow down and drive with extra caution. We want you to get to where you are going, but we want you to be safe," Strandberg said.

Here are a few safe driving tips when driving near winter maintenance vehicles, such as snow plows, snow blowers, graders, sanding trucks or anti-icing trucks.

-Plows and sanders travel at slow speeds, about 35 mph, and their visibility is often limited, due to snow particles blowing around the truck.

-Motorists should stay back about three car lengths for every 10 mph of travel in slippery conditions.

-Road conditions are typically worse in front of the plow or sander. If possible, stay behind the plow. They will pull over to let you pass when it is safe.

-Don't pass on the right. In addition to being illegal, many snowplows are fitted with wing plows that stick out eight feet from the right side of the truck.

-Always follow the Basic Rule by driving according to the conditions of the road.

Oregon's weather can change quickly and without warning. Before you travel, check for current road conditions. For an updated road conditions report dial 1-800-977-6368, toll free from inside Oregon. When calling from outside Oregon, dial 1-503-588-2941. Reports are available around the clock. Internet users can also visit ODOT's award winning web site, [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) for road conditions, weather information and road cameras.

## ODA finalizes and adopts fertilizer rules

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has adopted new administrative rules to implement changes in Oregon's fertilizer law enacted during the 2001 legislative session. In establishing the rules, Oregon becomes only the fifth state to set limits on the amount of heavy metals allowed in fertilizer products.

The new rules will be effective Jan. 1, 2003. Changes in ODA's originally proposed rules reflect input from testimony provided during public hearings and a public comment period. ODA Director Phil Ward says the updated Oregon Fertilizer Law and the new rules will protect consumers and will provide necessary information to purchase and use such products.

The new administrative rules establish:

-Maximum limits of arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), nickel (Ni), and lead (Pb) allowed in fertilizer, agricultural amendment, agricultural mineral, and lime products that are offered for sale or distribution in Oregon.

-An Internet address to be added to product labels to provide the public with relevant product information. Manufacturers must have the website printed on product labeling by Jan. 1, 2004.

-Minimum detection limits for heavy metals laboratory analyses.

-Guidelines for civil penalty enforcement based on the magnitude of the violation.

After reviewing research and regulatory processes in other states, ODA chose to base Oregon metal standards on available risk assessments that focus primarily on human health risks. The new metal standards are more expansive than other states as they apply to a wider variety of products on the market in Oregon. ODA will coordinate future research in an effort to generate Oregon-specific data to better understand the interaction of metals, which may be contained in fertilizer products, and the environment. Every three years, ODA will consult with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Human Resources, and other parties to evaluate new scientific data to determine if adjustments to the metal standards are warranted.

Utilizing current and future scientific research in the assessment of metals will al-

low ODA to remain protective and preventative in setting metal levels.

For more information or copies of the final rules, visit the ODA website at: <http://oda.state.or.us/fertilizer/index.html>.

## Sheriff's Report

- continued from page 5

-MCSO received a report from the Ontario Police Dept. that Jennifer Star Perry, 24, was arrested on a Morrow County Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Contributing to the Sexual Delinquency of a Minor.

-Boardman Police Dept. officer cited Jack McGuire, 37, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 48 mph in a 30 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report from a caller that his truck tires had been slashed.

-MCSO received a hang-up 911 call from a residence in Boardman. The call was unfounded.

-MCSO received a request for a tow truck for the caller vehicle on I-84 westbound.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report from a caller in Boardman of a suspicious subject soliciting donations in the area. The subject's affiliation was unknown.

-Boardman Police Dept. officer cited Raymond Dungan III, 25, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 68 mph in a 55 mph zone.

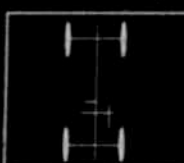
-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report from a caller in Boardman of loud music coming from a pickup.

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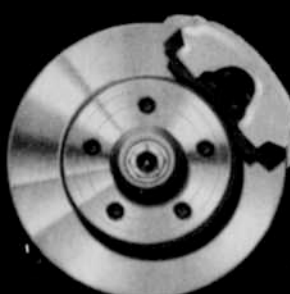
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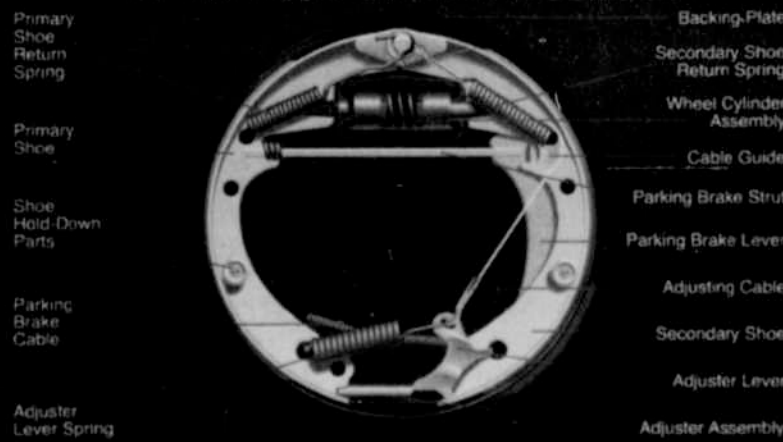
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