

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



Unfortunately, Mother nature hit us hard at the end of 2007 and

Once again another year has passed; with 2007 giving way to 2008.

doesn't seem to be done with us yet. If it's not the rain and wet roads it's the snow and ice. Driving has not been very fun in the Vernonia area. Please be patient and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination, or at least to get down off the hill to better road conditions. Make sure you have the proper tires or traction devices and check road conditions by dialing 511 or 1-800-977-ODOT (6368), or you can check

<www.tripcheck.com> on the internet. Make sure to have blankets, shovel, candles, some snack foods, and water just in case something would happen and you become stranded.

2008 brings with it a bevy of new laws that we all should be aware of. The following are some of the highlights to be aware of. I also put a link called "New 2008 Laws" on the VPD website.

• HB 2872 (Teen Cell Phone) prohibits drivers under 18 from using a cell phone if they have a provisional driver's license or a special student or instruction driver permit. This is a secondary offense and can't be the primary reason for a stop.

• HB 2147, 2148 (Teen Alcohol) makes 18, 19, and 20 year olds subject to automatic license suspensions for alcohol offenses and creates the Class A violation of underage person

in possession of alcohol while driving.

• HB 2774 (Ignition Interlock) requires an ignition-interlock device on the cars of people convicted of drunken driving for one year for the first offense and two years for a second or subsequent offense.

• HB 2321 (Fail to Pay) doubles the automatic license suspension for failing to pay a fine or appear in a traffic-related

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