

# Tips available from "Oregon Winter Driving Guide"

The "Oregon Winter Driving Guide" contains information on Oregon's laws that govern use of tire chains, tips for driving in icy or snowy conditions, and a checklist of equipment for roadside emergencies. The free guide is available at visitor information centers and convention bureaus, welcome centers and information kiosks, Les Schwab Tire Centers, Department of Transportation offices, and from members of the Oregon Lodging Association. The guide is also available online at [tripcheck.com](http://tripcheck.com), [traveloregon.com](http://traveloregon.com), [oregontic.com](http://oregontic.com), and [oregonlodging.com](http://oregonlodging.com).

Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Trans-

portation recommend the following travel safety tips to help get you safely to your destination:

- Expect the unexpected. Be informed and prepared when traveling on any of our highways.
- When traveling anywhere, plan ahead and take known routes if possible. Our weather has been changing quickly and sometimes without warning. For road conditions in Oregon, call 5-1-1 or 800-977-ODOT (6368). Outside Oregon, dial 503-588-2941. Visiting Trip Check.com on the Internet provides information on road and weather conditions, incidents and traffic delays, and links to numerous cameras on many

mountain passes and major routes.

- Take the time to keep up on current and future weather conditions in the area you are traveling, especially if going to or through higher elevations and mountain passes, areas where your vehicle needs to have appropriate traction tires or devices.
- If considering a remote route that you have never traveled on, don't hesitate to contact available road and weather condition phone numbers or Internet resources, or contact police or highway department officials.
- Prepare an emergency kit to place in your car for longer

trips and keep track of how much fuel is in your tank, especially if traveling unfamiliar routes or into remote locations.

- Let friends and family know what routes you plan to take when on a trip, keeping them updated and letting them know if these plans change.
- Drive to the conditions. If it's icy or wet, increase your following distance and reduce your speed. Use your headlights to improve not only your visibility, but also so others can see your vehicle.
- In bad weather, don't use cruise control.



# County seeking volunteers for Planning board

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants from county citizens to fill two vacant positions on the seven-member Planning Commission, plus two vacancies for the Alternate positions. All applicants will be reviewed and considered.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact the Board of Commissioners office at 503-397-4322 or obtain an interest form on the website [www.co.columbia.or.us](http://www.co.columbia.or.us). For detailed information about the Planning Commission, contact Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, at 503-397-1501.

# Recycling program set for computers, TVs

To help reduce the amount of electronics waste tossed in the trash, and to encourage responsible recycling, the Oregon E-Cycles program launches statewide on January 1, 2009.

Oregon E-Cycles provides free and convenient recycling of computers, monitors and televisions in all Oregon counties and in all Oregon cities with a population of at least 10,000. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will oversee the program, which was made possible through legislation in 2007.

Electronics manufacturers finance the program, and many manufacturers support it by paying operating fees. Some operate their own statewide recycling program. All of these programs meet the same environmental management standards and operate under the Oregon E-Cycles umbrella.

The program does not include free recycling of cell phones, computer peripherals such as keyboards and mice, and other electronic items.

Oregonians can learn more about the program and how it works through a new Web site,

[www.oregonecycles.org](http://www.oregonecycles.org). Starting January 1, site users will be able to find the nearest recycling/collection site to drop off unwanted computers, monitors and televisions.

The Web site also offers information targeted specifically for consumers, manufacturers or retailers, and includes fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions. Oregonians will also be able to ask questions through a toll-free hotline, 1-800-5-ECYCLE (1-800-532-9253), which also will be available starting Jan. 1.

"This program is important for Oregon's efforts to manage solid waste more responsibly and to expand the state's recycling opportunities," said DEQ Director Dick Pedersen. "Nationally, people are seeing more opportunities to recycle and properly dispose of their unwanted electronics. This is a big step for Oregon."

Here's how the program works:

- Beginning Jan. 1, anyone may recycle seven or fewer items (computers, computer monitors and televisions) at no charge at participating collection sites. Households, small

businesses and small nonprofit organizations (those with 10 or fewer employees) may be able to bring in more than seven items at one visit, but should call the collection site ahead of time before doing so. Oregon E-Cycles also plans to hold special collection events during the year.

• People interested in recycling electronics devices not covered under the E-Cycles program (such as cell phones, DVD players, computer peripherals, scanners, etc.) should check with the collection site to see what their policy is for taking in these items. Some sites may charge a fee to accept these items and some may be unable to accept them. A complete list of collection sites and contact information will be available on the Web site.

• Retail outlets selling computers, computer monitors and televisions will be required to sell only brands that are listed as "compliant" or "pending" on DEQ's manufacturer compliance list. Retailers will provide consumers with information about Oregon E-Cycles when they purchase new computers, monitors and televisions.

The holiday season can be difficult and we want to help!

Open a Checking Account in one of our five branches and we will donate \$25 to the local homeless shelter or food bank.

Checking options are Classic, Premier, Fresh Start, iChecking, Jump Start Checking for teens and Senior Checking.



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Anyone in Clatsop and Columbia Counties can become a member. Members must apply and be qualified for a checking account. Offer is good until 12/31/08.

## Have a Happy Holiday

## Don't Drink & Drive