

Cow Bulletin

December, 2010

Vol. 17, Issue 12 Marian Gaylord, Towing Coordinator, (503) 865-2489

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL CONTRACT TOW EMPLOYEES

This Month...

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Day Holiday

City Offices Closed – Gate fees apply

Friday, December 31st

New Year's Day Holiday

City Offices Closed – Gate fees apply

Because both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Saturdays this year, the day that is observed as the holiday for City purposes will be the Friday immediately preceding the holiday.

This means that towers are not required to staff their lots all day on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve and gate fees may be applied.

But remember – *it makes no difference in your availability for tows and vehicle releases.* . . .

Title Surrenders . . . There must be a new wave of staff at the tow contractors' offices – once again, I've received a bunch of complaints about towers accepting title surrenders, but not getting the required release. **Remember:** If you accept a title in lieu of payment for a vehicle, you have assumed ownership and responsibility for the

vehicle. This means, if the tow requires a release, *the tower must obtain it.* If you do not accept a title and you assert a lien on the vehicle, you are not required to get a release. ***Towers should assume that a PPB tow WILL need a release, unless Auto Records tells them otherwise...***

Oregon's Crosswalk Laws . . .

Attached is a copy of information from ODOT about state law regarding how drivers are to deal with pedestrians. Remember: Every street corner is a crosswalk! ***Looks like they mean business, judging by the penalty amounts!..***

~December Events in history~

The first successful artificial heart transplant was completed at the University of Utah Medical Center. The recipient was Barney C. Clark, age 61, December 2, 1982

Cold Weather Reminder . . . Okay, we've had a little "dress rehearsal" for bad winter weather. Did you follow our



*First Day of
Hanukkah Dec. 1*

Preparedness Checklist? If not, here it is again:

- “winterize” trucks now, checking or replacing coolant/antifreeze
- equip every truck with snow chains
- consider carrying a quantity of sand for temporary traction
- flashlights and extra batteries
- warm gloves and plenty of spares; wet gloves can actually increase the chance of frostbite!
- extra warm, dry clothing for when you can’t avoid getting wet
- blankets or a sleeping bag; “space” blankets are inexpensive and take up very little room in your cab
- hot drinks and food can help you stay warm, but (of course) stay away from alcoholic beverages.

These are just few suggestions (some, courtesy of Tow Times magazine) to keep you safe during the winter. *It’s not just the Boy Scouts who need to Be Prepared!...*

~December events in history~
The first motel opened in the United States, The Motel Inn, in San Luis Obispo, California, December 12, 1925

November Response Times . . . Out of 1,662 tows in November:

- 21 to 30 minutes** – 58 tows (Down from 62)
- 31 + minutes** – 41 tows (Up from 33)
- Total percentage of late responses** = 5.9%
- Failures to Respond:** 3 tows (Same)

Less than 5%:

21st Century D4 Retriever

21 st Century D7	Loop
A&B D2	Northwestern
A&B D7	Safeguard
A&B D8	Sam’s
Beaver	Security
Handy Andy	Speed D5
	Speed D8

5 to 9.9% :

Newhouse D5	Sergeant’s D8
	Sergeant’s D3

10% or more

21st Century D5	Gerlock
Buck’s/9T9	Newhouse D8
Crown	Newhouse D4

100% Response . . .

- 21st Century D4** 48 requests
- 21st Century D5** 50 requests
- 21st Century D7** 94 requests
- A & B D2** 125 requests
- Beaver** 40 requests
- Handy Andy’s** 47 requests
- Loop Hwy** 63 requests
- Newhouse D4** 48 requests
- Newhouse D5** 45 requests
- Sam’s** 47 requests
- Security** 121 requests
- Sergeants D8** 90 requests
- Speed’s D5** 47 requests

In addition, the following companies passed only 1 tow in November:

- Retriever** 145 requests
- Sergeants D3** 46 requests

The overall pass percentage for November was 1.56%..

November All-Stars. . . . No passes and no late responses:



*First Day of
Hanukkah Dec. 1*

Sam's Towing
Congratulations and thanks!...

~December events in history~

**Orville and Wilbur Wright's first
successful manned powered flight
occurred near Kitty Hawk, North
Carolina, December 17, 1903**

No Contract Workshop in December

There will be no Workshop held in
December. See you January 27, 2011!

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Peace and prosperity to all in 2011!



Everyone is a pedestrian at some point each day!

Pedestrians account for 10-15% of traffic fatalities each year. Over 550 pedestrians were injured and 45 were killed in motor vehicle crashes in Oregon in 2004.

Oregon's streets and highways are becoming busier – roadways that must be shared by drivers and pedestrians alike.

Seventy-five percent of driver errors in motor vehicle-pedestrian crashes are a failure of drivers to yield to the pedestrian. And half of the pedestrians who are struck by vehicles are hit while they are in a crosswalk.

Pedestrians and motorists both share in the responsibility of pedestrian safety.



Safety Tips

- Remember, under Oregon law there is a crosswalk at every intersection.
- Do not pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. A stopped car may be a clue that a pedestrian is crossing. When stopping for a crosswalk on a multi-lane road, you should stop about 30 feet before the crosswalk so you don't block visibility to a driver in a second lane.
- When stopping at an intersection, do not block the crosswalk. This forces pedestrians to go around your vehicle and puts them in a dangerous situation.
- Watch for pedestrians, especially children, when exiting driveways or when backing out of parking spaces in parking lots.
- Pedestrians move at different speeds. Be alert for children who may suddenly dart into the street. Be patient with older adults who take extra time to cross the street.
- Around taverns and bars, be alert for people with slowed reaction times or impaired judgment.
- Be alert for people or animals during low-light conditions, especially in areas where they are likely to cross the road, or you might not see them until it is too late to stop.

Transportation Safety – ODOT

800-922-2022

www.odot.state.or.us/transafety

What you need to know about Oregon crosswalk laws



**The safety
of pedestrians is in
your hands...**

What's the problem?

Oregon's crosswalk laws were written to provide a buffer of safety for pedestrians on the roadway.

In collisions with cars, pedestrians are always the losers. Studies show a pedestrian hit at 40 mph has an 85% chance of dying.

When you choose to drive, you are responsible for a lethal machine.

What's the law?

A crosswalk¹ exists at any public street intersection, whether marked with paint or unmarked. Crosswalks also exist between intersections (mid-block) only if they are marked with white painted lines.

Under Oregon laws², a driver has specific duties to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked. Here's what you need to know:

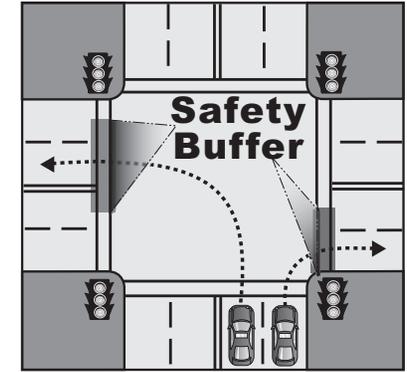
When turning at a traffic signal, drivers must:

- Stop and remain stopped for pedestrians until they have cleared the lane into which your vehicle is turning and at least 6 feet of the next lane.

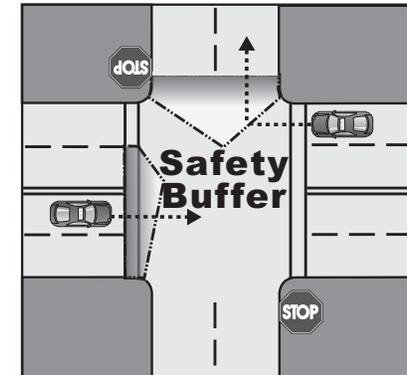
At any other crosswalks - whether marked with paint or unmarked - drivers must:

- Stop and remain stopped for pedestrians until they have cleared the lane in which you are traveling (or into which you are turning) and the next lane.
- Stop and remain stopped for students as you are directed by a crossing guard.
- Stop and remain stopped for a blind pedestrian using a white cane or a guide dog until the pedestrian is completely across the roadway.

If a pedestrian is in a safety buffer when the vehicle enters the crosswalk, the driver will be cited for a fine over \$200.



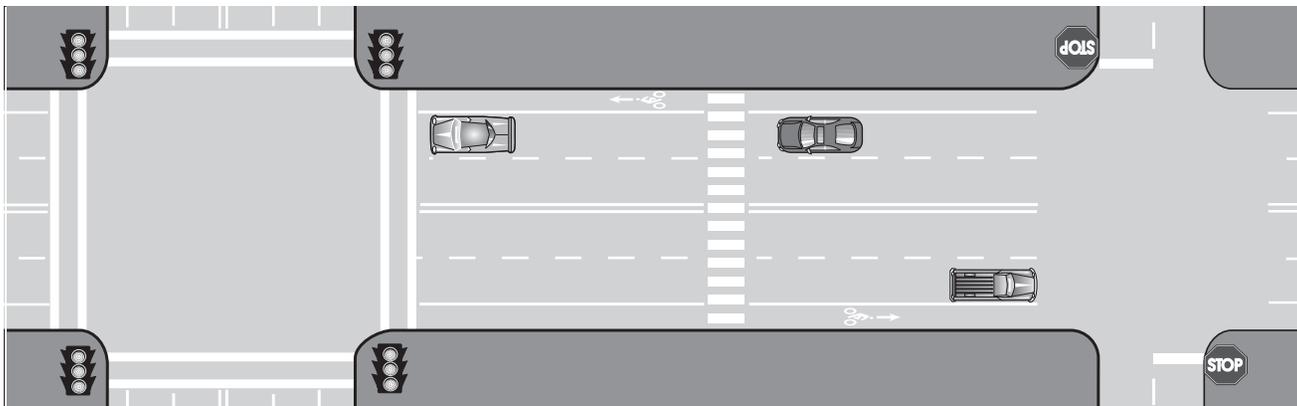
When turning at a signal, it's your lane plus six feet: Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane into which the vehicle is turning and at least 6 feet of the next lane, before you proceed.



At any other crosswalk, it's your lane plus the next lane: Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane in which the vehicle is traveling or turning and at least the next lane, before you proceed.

Be prepared

Oregon laws³ affect pedestrians, too. Pedestrians are required to obey traffic signals and walk safely. But, pedestrians are unprotected and vulnerable. You, as the driver, can **prevent terrible injury** by being prepared to stop and yield no matter who has the right of way. Saving a life is worth your time.



Marked Crosswalks

Mid-block Crosswalk

Unmarked Crosswalks