

February Transportation Safety Newsletter: Super Bowl LVIII

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Oregon Department
of Transportation

Transportation Safety

February 2024

Super Bowl LVIII – Make a Plan



On February 11, the Super Bowl will have millions of viewers, with many taking the opportunity to cheer on their favored team with a night out or at a party. Have a solid game plan. There are plenty of options to help impaired drivers get home safely, such as designating a sober driver or calling a taxi or rideshare. If you're hosting a party, prepare plenty of snacks and nonalcoholic drinks for your guests and the designated drivers. Remind your friends and family: *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk.*

Rules of the Road – Cell Phone Use

The question: Can a driver in Oregon use their cellphone if the car is stopped at a red light? KGW investigates the Oregon cell phone use law and if drivers are safe if they take a quick look at the screen or fire off a text when they're waiting at a red light or trapped in stop-and-go traffic.

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Winter Walk+Roll to School Day

Winter Walk (or Bike) to School Day is coming up on February 7. With the right preparation, walking or biking to school in the winter can be fun and enjoyable! A little bit of exercise before starting the day can help improve children's learning in school, provides much needed daily exercise, allows them to have fun with their friends, and helps reduce air pollution and traffic congestion around schools. Dress for winter weather – wear layers, scarves, rain gear, and reflective clothing to stay visible and dry.

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Safe Routes to School Grants

In communities around the state, there will soon be new sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and more to make walking and rolling to school safer, easier and more accessible for all. We will be accepting applications February 12 through March 25 for three Safe Routes to School Programs, each of which uniquely helps communities better address barriers to students walking and rolling to school.

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Seat Belt Enforcement Campaign

Despite having one of the highest seat belt usage rates in the nation, Oregon still experiences tragedy every year due to lack of belt use. In fact, not wearing a safety belt was a major factor in half of Oregon's traffic deaths. More than a third of children under age eight who were injured in crashes were unrestrained,

held on laps, or using adult belt systems rather than child seats. From January 29 to February 11 law enforcement personnel will be working extra shifts during the first of three statewide seat belt campaigns to help ensure motorists and their passengers are properly buckled up. Drive Safely. *The Way to Go.*



New Laws Promote Safety

The Oregon Legislature passed hundreds of bills in the last session, revising some existing transportation laws and creating new ones. Many changes went into effect on Jan. 1, 2024. In case you missed it, here is a summary of new laws for 2024 that promote safety on Oregon's roads.

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Winter Storm Response

Across the state, crews from the Oregon Department of Transportation worked to keep roads clear of snow, downed trees, and other obstacles from the winter storm.

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