



Department of Public Safety
*Providing responsive, collaborative, and professional policing
that results in a safe environment for all members of OHSU's community*

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Vehicle Safety

Many OHSU employees have reason to drive OHSU or State-owned vehicles in the course of their work. Although accidents involving these vehicles are infrequent, safe driving tips are worthy of review. The difference between good and bad drivers is that a good driver always expects the unexpected:

See and Be Seen... In Control – Visibility is key in preventing accidents. First the unobstructed visibility of the driver is critical. Never carry loads in a way that you limit your ability to see in all directions. Second, increase your visibility to other drivers by turning your lights on for safety. Also, do not drive in another vehicle's blind spot. When passing, avoid long periods where another driver's awareness of you is reduced. Always drive within posted speed limits, as appropriate for the vehicle and the load.

Maintain the Vehicle – It is NOT someone else's job! Every time you get into a vehicle, it is your responsibility to check the safety of all major systems...every time! Make sure that lights, turn signals, tires, breaks, and seatbelts are functional. Report any problems.

Buckle Up – Seat belts are provided for your protection, and wearing them is the law! You, as an individual, not OHSU, are responsible for paying fines if you are cited for not wearing your seat belt.

Check Before Backing – Check for other people, animals, and objects to ensure a clear path. Accidents while backing a vehicle account for a significant number of injuries and accidents among employers. Minimize occasions where you must back up by picking parking places and loading areas carefully.

Go Prepared – Work vehicles should be equipped with first aid kits and fire extinguishers for your use in case of emergency. In addition, if you carry loads that may shift while driving, make sure you have approved load blocks, bins, or tie-downs to reduce the chance of a problem.

Crosswalk – Always stop and remain stopped whenever any pedestrian is in a crosswalk. The intent of crosswalk laws are to ensure pedestrians' safety and comfort in the crosswalk.

Cell Phones While Driving – It is illegal to drive while holding or using an electronic device. Drivers may activate or deactivate a function on the phone with a one touch action, but if you need to type in an address or intersection you'll have to pull over or park.

Safety Has Nothing To Do With Luck – Pay attention and take the time to prevent accidents by fixing or reporting potential problems!

If you have any vehicle maintenance issues while parked at OHSU, please call Public Safety at (503) 494-7744 and an officer will be able to assist you.