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## Wind and heavy rains mean dangerous driving

*A wet and windy weekend forecast means drivers and bicyclists need to use extra care*

The National Weather Service is forecasting a windy and wet weekend and that means area travelers need to be extra careful on the roads.

Saturday showers, the weather service is predicting, will give way Sunday to heavy rain and wind gusts of up to 40 mph. Wet soils and strong winds can combine to topple trees which in turn can knock out power and block roads.

The rain could also lead to clogged drains, flooded creeks and culverts and water on the roads.

And that means motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians all need to be extra alert on the roads this weekend and when going back to work Monday morning.

Here are some tips from ODOT.

- **Know before you go.** Check conditions on your route at Tripcheck.com.
- Rain means reduced tire traction, lower visibility and less predictable handling of bikes and motorized vehicles. Allow extra time to get where you're going.
- Road surfaces might be slick with oil, grease and wet leaves and that means dangerous conditions, especially for bikes.
- **Maintain plenty of stopping distance** between you and the next person.
- Make sure all your equipment is operating properly, including lights, brakes and tires and, for motorized vehicles, wiper blades and defroster.
- Beware of puddles. An unexpectedly deep puddle can bust up your tires.
- Be seen. Heavy rain and headlight glare reduce visibility for everyone. **Motorists and bicyclists alike should turn on their lights** and make sure everyone can see you.

For more information, here's a link to ODOT tips on driving in the rain:

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/pages/winterdriving.aspx#Driving\\_in\\_the\\_rain](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/pages/winterdriving.aspx#Driving_in_the_rain)

And here's a link to ODOT tips on driving when visibility is poor:

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/pages/winterdriving.aspx#Low\\_visibility\\_driving](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/pages/winterdriving.aspx#Low_visibility_driving)

The rainy season is here and that means uncertain road conditions. Use extra caution and look out for the other person.

**##ODOT##**

