

# A Message From Good Sam's Oregon State Director

by Karen Wells

As we move into winter, the North American RVers of this world have a decision to make. They can either start the process of winterizing their RV, putting it into some sort of storage until spring arrives again or they can make plans to go south, following the birds, looking for warmer temperatures. That is why they are often called snowbirds.

Personally, Larry and I prepare our rig for winter, parking it in a solid, covered building where it will be kept protected from the elements.

I remove things like my makeup, some pantry food, paper goods and my computer printer, all items that could be affected adversely by long periods of non-use. I blend those items back into our home, recycling them so nothing gets old, outdated or damaged. Next spring we will restock before camping again.

One thing I learned this summer is to keep a list of important phone numbers and other information handy at my fingertips while camping. What brought this on was something that happened to us in October.

Larry and I were driving south on I-5 on our way to a scheduled campout with the Good Sam Klamath Kampers at the Valley of the Rogue State Park, south of Grants Pass.

Going down a long descending grade we noticed ahead of us a pickup and utility trailer pulled over on the right shoulder of the road with a man running back toward us. At the same time we noticed some construction items strewn on the road ahead of us.



Larry is not a fast driver, keeping the RV moving between 55 and 60 mph. Even at that speed, with a lot of traffic around us, we knew we were going to have to perform a dodge and swerve maneuver.

Our left front tire missed the big black box by inches, causing our right front tire to hit a cylinder that looked like a fire extinguisher. The tire didn't blow and we came back into our lane, feeling relieved nothing bad had happened. We continued on our way to the RV Park.

During the night it began raining. As we stepped out of the door in the morning we were shocked to see our RV covered in a purple liquid. When we shot water on the undercarriage we quickly saw purple water spreading over the parking pad, going down the dump drain.

It took a lot of scrubbing, with help from our camping friends, to remove the purple color. Our guess was it was caused by a powdered concrete dye of some sort.

It was Saturday, no one answered when I tried to report it by phone. On Monday, I found this information at the ODOT office in Salem. I will keep this information handy from now on; hopefully never needing to use it again.

I am sharing it with all of you so if it is needed, you will know where to call.



Questions, comments or concerns?  
Call 1-888 Ask ODOT  
or 1-888-275-6368  
e-mail: AskODOT@odot.state.or.us

To report a life-threatening  
emergency, call 911.

To report a road hazard or  
roadside emergency call your  
local ODOT dispatch center:



Portland Metro

1. (503) 283-5859

NW Oregon, North and Central Coast

2. (503) 362-0457

Southern Oregon

3. (541) 858-3103

Central Oregon

4. (541) 383-0121

Eastern Oregon

5. (541) 383-0124

Road condition information:  
www.TripCheck.com  
call 511 or  
(800) 977-6368



## Ask ODOT

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or 1-888-275-6368

E-mail:

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(800) 977-6368  
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Citizens' Representative Office

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