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Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD by Liane Welch

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For additional information, contact:

Tillamook County Public Works
503-842-3419 or email jsteinba@co.tillamook.or.us

POTHOLES

Report potholes on Tillamook County Roads by calling the Tillamook County Public Works (TCPW) Department at 503-842-3419.

Potholes – no one likes them. Just weeks into winter, things are starting to get even bumpier on our County roads. Potholes seem to pop up by magic almost overnight. In reality potholes are created in a number of ways. The most common way is when water seeps into cracks in the surface of the road and, combined with the vibration of the tires over the cracks, causes the asphalt to fail. That is why there are more potholes after it rains or when the temperature shifts. Once there is a weak spot, every vehicle that travels over it makes the problem worse creating plenty of work for Public Works crews — and a rocky ride for some drivers and cyclists.

It has been an average season for potholes. But with plenty of winter left to go and a shortage of funding and crews, the problem with potholes isn't likely to go away anytime soon. Instead of being able to do overlay (paving) work, we are doing pothole patching, which is a temporary and costly repair. TCPW will be doing more and more of this, which unfortunately is a reactive action. We will be chasing pothole problems for quite a while.

The older streets that get a lot of traffic - and haven't been repaired recently are usually at highest risk for developing potholes and are monitored very closely. TCPW is usually able to respond to service requests as soon as possible.

If the hole is fairly small, it might not need an immediate repair or can be temporarily fixed with a cold adhesive material. Deeper holes require a more complex repair.

The public should use extra caution as potholes that form in the winter months may damage vehicles. Avoiding potholes also helps keep the holes from getting bigger.

Please remember to keep the travelling public and road workers safe by following the speed signs in construction zones. For more information call the Tillamook County Public Works (TCPW) Department at 503-842-3419.

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We take pride in serving the public by providing, maintaining, and preserving a safe and efficient county road network, and quickly responding to weather events and hazards. We protect the public's investment by working with our partners and targeting resources to minimize long term costs while providing the best possible service. Please visit <http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/Various/Departments/Default.htm> for more information.