



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

503 Marolf Loop Road  
Tillamook, Oregon 97141  
Roads (503) 842-3419  
Solid Waste (503) 815-3975  
FAX (503) 842-6473  
Email: [pubwks@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:pubwks@co.tillamook.or.us)  
TTY Oregon Relay Service

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*Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze*

April 1, 2013

### CAPE MEARES LOOP CLOSURE UPDATE

TILLAMOOK, Ore. — Despite a drier than normal winter in the area, the slide on the Cape Meares Loop Road between mileposts 1 and 2.5 has continued a slow but steady movement, according to the latest survey taken from February 18 to March 14. Tillamook County closed the road on January 11, 2013 due to the extensive slide movement.

The County has also received approval from the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to conduct a geotechnical/geological study. This is the initial step in qualifying for federal emergency funds that may allow the County to assess slide damage and/or alternate routes.

The slide on the Cape Meares Loop Road became more noticeable following the November 2012 storm event when the County observed accelerated movement of an active landslide. Survey data indicated that portions of the road moved up to 9 feet between 2007 and 2013, although most of the movement has occurred since November 2012. The most recent survey data indicates more steady slow movement even though it has been a relatively dry winter.

Cape Meares Loop Road is part of the Three Capes Scenic Loop which connects Cape Meares State Park, Cape Lookout State Park and Cape Kiwanda State Park. Bay Ocean Road often has landslides in the area from Memaloose Boat ramp to the Bay Ocean Dike Road. The County continues to monitor the landslide movement and is working with emergency responders, residents and others on available options for emergency response.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is also monitoring an area of cracked pavement just south of the Happy Camp slide on OR Hwy 131 that was repaired in 2011. Many of Oregon's coastal routes including OR 131 have a long history of slide movement because of the steep hillsides, types of soils and heavy precipitation. The crack on OR 131 has been slow moving and noticeable for at least the past 10 years. ODOT geologists, engineers and maintenance crews will continue to monitor Hwy 131 and other slide prone areas, and pave and patch when necessary, according to Lou Torres, an ODOT public information officer.

Residents are reminded that they should prepare their Emergency kits, and check the NOAA website for more information, <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>

Both the County and ODOT understand the importance of these coastal highways and will continue to monitor these areas on a regular basis. Maintaining safety for the travelling public is a top priority based on available resources. For more information, please call your County Road Department at 503-842-3419.

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 [www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/pw/default/htm](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/pw/default/htm) for more information.