

Tillamook police to get tough on erratic drivers during floods



Headlight-Herald File Photo

A line of vehicles plows through floodwaters on U.S. 101, North Main in Tillamook, Jan. 10.

TILLAMOOK — Police will crack down on drivers who ignore road closure signs the next time there is significant flooding on city streets.

Tillamook Police Chief Terry Wright said the fine for failing to obey a traffic device such as a “road closed” sign or barrier is \$249.

The chief said wakes caused by cars driving on flooded streets can cause additional damage to homes and businesses.

“Residents and business owners expect to us to protect their properties,” Wright said.

According to Wright, the problem is particularly bad on U.S. 101 north of First Street

and on various streets on the west side of town.

People who drive on flooded streets that have been closed risk getting into serious situations, he added.

“They won’t always know why we closed the street,” he said. “There could be a downed power line under the water or a large hole in the street.”

In addition, Wright told the *Headlight-Herald* that some motorists in town are still failing to stop for school buses when their red lights are flashing.

Under Oregon law, motorists traveling in either direction on an undivided highway must stop when a school bus is taking on

or letting off children and displaying flashing red lights.

The fine for failing to stop, Wright said, is \$432.