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OSP/ODOT sting operation nets 21 citations

MEDFORD — Cracking down on unlicensed and uninsured moving operations in the Medford area, Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Transportation held an undercover enforcement operation in Medford on Thursday, Feb. 19.

The sting operation focused on groups that advertise on Web sites, offering to help people move for a fee. Many Oregon consumers don't realize these groups don't have legal operating authority or insurance and, in some cases, safe vehicles and drivers.

The Medford-area operation pre-identified online moving operations and then made appointments to meet at a south Medford decoy house. The movers were met by officers, who checked drivers and equipment for any violations.



“Consumers who choose an unlicensed mover whether intentionally or unintentionally may have little or no recourse for loss or damage to their property and may be charged higher than normal fees,” said Norm Cooper, ODOT Motor Carrier Division Compliance Specialist.

Twelve vehicles were inspected during today's operation. Of the 12 inspected, five had safety violations and one vehicle was placed out of service. There were 11 citations for operating without a valid ODOT permit, three citations for unlawful pack and

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load operation and two citations for driving while suspended. Some of those interviewed had past offenses, including heroin and methamphetamine use, felony assault, hit and run, and driving while intoxicated. One individual was a registered sex offender.

ODOT Motor Carrier inspectors and OSP troopers checked to ensure that (1) the mover properly certified in Oregon to offer moving services; and (2) that the mover's vehicle and driver properly registered in Oregon and the vehicle was in safe working condition.

Past operations in Fairview, Bend, Eugene, Canby and Portland resulted in multiple citations for operating without proper authority and other violations. Multiple arrests were made for outstanding warrants and parole violations.



Moving is a regulated industry in Oregon. Any company or person that offers household goods moving services must be certified by ODOT.

Certified movers are trained to follow industry standards for loading, moving and unloading property. They are also required to charge approved, reasonable rates. Businesses that offer to pack and load property into a customer (shipper) obtained (rental) truck must register annually with ODOT, showing proof of general liability and property damage insurance.

The best way consumers can protect themselves during the moving process is to hire a certified moving or pack and load company. Information, including consumer tips and a list of certified companies is available on the ODOT Motor Carrier Web site at:

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/MOVING.shtml>.

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