



# Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway  
Newport, Oregon 97365

## NPD MEDIA RELEASE

03/15/2010 12:00 p.m.

**Incident:** New Handicap Parking Law

**Location:** State of Oregon

**Details:** As of January 1, 2008, a new style of disabled parking permit was made available for persons that use wheelchairs, or low-powered motorized or mechanically propelled vehicles. This permit is issued for parking in the new “wheelchair users only disabled parking areas.” These permits have a light blue background and display the words “Wheelchair User” on the lower portion of the permit. (See samples below.)

Not all parking spaces were created equal. Oregon law requires businesses to provide standard handicap parking spaces as well as “van accessible” or “wheelchair user only” with an adjacent aisle that is two feet wider than the standard space. These extra two feet provide the room necessary for those using wheelchairs to enter and exit their vehicle. Because these spaces are larger and usually placed closest to building entrances, they are routinely the first to be taken, often leaving those in wheelchairs either cramped for space in the smaller handicap aisles, or with nowhere to park at all.

Oregon’s new law states that a specified number of van accessible and wheel chair parking spaces shall be made available. This specified number is determined by the total number of parking spaces provided by the business. In addition to the familiar handicap parking signage, these spaces must also be marked, “Van Accessible” and/or “Wheelchair User Only.” Any person parking in a space marked “Wheelchair User Only” must display the new DMV permit (light blue in color, reading “Wheelchair User” on the bottom; see sample below). Those parking in these designated spaces without a wheelchair

permit, even if they are displaying any other disabled permit, are in violation and may be subject to a fine.

For the past several weeks, Newport Police Officers and Volunteers have been issuing warnings to those violating the wheelchair parking law. However, beginning April 1, 2010 warnings will be replaced by citations carrying a maximum fine of \$472.00.



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