



The A, B, C's of mile markers in Oregon

If you drive far on U.S. Highway 395 or Oregon 207 in eastern Oregon you may notice something different about the small green paddle signs that mark the miles on these routes. A letter designator has been added to some of the mile post signs to help differentiate one section of highway from another. Because of how the highways connect with other routes, the mile posts numbers on these routes reset to zero on several occasions.

Travelers on U.S. 395 might see the letter “B”, “C”, “D” or “E” after the mile number. On OR 207, the letters “A”, “B” or “C” will be present on the mile marker sign. The letters are there to help emergency responders and ODOT crews identify specific highway sections when a mile post number is given as the location of a crash, stranded motorist, highway hazard or other incident.

As example, U.S. 395 in Oregon begins in the north at the intersection of U.S. 730, near the Washington State Line and runs from mile point zero to mile point 12, where it connects with Interstate 84 at Exit 188. At this point U.S. 395 and I-84 become one route between Exit 188 and Exit 209 in Pendleton. From Pendleton, U.S. 395 branches south again from mile point zero, all the way to mile post 121 in Mt. Vernon, where it connects to U.S. 26. Highway 395 then follows U.S. 26 east to John Day, where it again separates and continues its journey south to connect with U.S. 20, a few miles north of Burns. Along this stretch the mile markers run from zero to 68. The number jumble continues as the mile markers on U.S. 395 reset two more times before the route ends its 380 mile-long journey through Oregon and enters California, south of Lakeview.

All this mile marker resetting can be confusing when motorists call a tow company or the state police and advise they've had an accident on U.S. 395 and need help at mile post 12. Emergency responders and dispatchers first have to confirm which mile post 12 they are at.

“It doesn't happen often, but occasionally an out of town traveler would call for help on one of these routes and only provide the mile maker,” said ODOT Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg. “Dispatchers then have to clarify their specific location by asking motorists if they now what segment of U.S. 395 they are on and what towns they had recently passed through.”

By adding the alpha character to the mile post signs, it eliminates the past confusion and designates a unique mile number for motorists, emergency responders and other crews.

Here's a breakdown of the mile post (MP) marker alpha designators for U.S. 395 and OR 207 in eastern Oregon:

Alpha Designator / MP	Highway Section
None MP 0-12:	U.S. 395 from U.S. 730 (near Washington border) to I-84 (south of Stanfield).
B MP 0-121 B:	U.S. 395 from I-84 (in Pendleton) to U.S. 26 (in Mt. Vernon).
C MP 0-68 C:	U.S. 395 from U.S. 26 (in John Day) to U.S. 20 (near Burns).
D MP 0-90 D:	U.S. 395 from U.S. 20 (near Riley) to junction of OR 31 (23 miles north of Lakeview).
E MP 120-157 E:	U.S. 395 from OR 31 (23 miles north of Lakeview) to California border. (This section picks up OR 31 MP numbers, starting at MP 120)



Mile marker on U.S. 395 south of Ukiah

(OR 207 info continued on next page)

Alpha
Designator / MP**Highway Section**

- A** MP 0-17 A: ***OR 207** from U.S. 730 near the Washington border to OR 320 Jct. / Madison Corner (10 miles west of Echo)*
- B** MP 0-37 B: ***OR 207** from Lexington to I-84 Exit 188*
- C** MP 0-40-C: ***OR 207** from Ruggs to OR 19 Jct.*

ODOT