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## TxDMV issues record number of oversize and overweight permits

In its first month issuing oversize and overweight permits, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) set a record for the number of permits issued.

TxDMV issued 58,514 permits in January, outpacing the previous high of 57,139 that was set in August 2011 when oversize and overweight permits was still part of the Texas Department of Transportation. The state legislature moved the permitting process to the TxDMV on Jan. 1.

Since Sept. 1, the start of the state's fiscal year, more than 325,000 oversize and overweight permits were issued, an increase of 20 percent from the same time period the previous year. If the permitting trend continues, the TxDMV could issue 700,000 permits this fiscal year, an all-time high for Texas.

The record year for oversize and overweight permits prior to the recession was 2008 when 580,415 permits were issued. Activity slumped beginning in 2009 before bottoming out in 2010 with only 500,522 permits issued.

The state made it much easier to get a permit just in time to handle the increase.

The Texas Permitting and Routing Optimization System (TxPROS) that launched in August allows oversize and overweight haulers to secure their permits online 24/7 along with a route – if needed -- that is safe for their load. The system is the first of its kind in the country, and is easy enough to use so that more than 60 percent of permits are being self-issued by customers through TxPROS.

Customers must obtain a permit for oversize and overweight loads to ensure their vehicle does not run into obstacles that can impact public safety, such as an overpass that is too low or a bridge that can be damaged by the weight. Truck loads more than 80,000 pounds, 14 feet high or 8 ½ -feet wide require an oversize or overweight permit. Texas drivers recognize some of these trucks by the "Oversize Load" signs attached to the vehicles.

Oversize and overweight permit fees generated about \$114 million in Fiscal Year 2011. More than \$82 million went into the State Highway Fund to build and maintain Texas' roads and bridges. The remaining revenue was deposited into the state's General Fund.

More information on oversize and overweight permits is available at www.TxDMV.gov.

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The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is charged with overseeing the state's motor vehicle services that provide consumer protection, assist motor vehicle-related businesses and raise revenue for the state. For every \$1 it spends, the TxDMV returns \$10 to build and maintain highways, roads and bridges and provide needed services to Texans. Each year the agency registers more than 21 million vehicles; regulates more than 23,000 vehicle dealers; credentials buses and big trucks for intrastate and interstate commerce; issues oversize and overweight permits; and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts. Learn more at <a href="https://www.TxDMV.gov">www.TxDMV.gov</a>.

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**ATTN EDITORS:** Please update your newsroom stylebook to note the proper acronym for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles is "TxDMV." Thank you.