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This talk is concerned with several aspects of the existence of global solutions and the formation of singularities for the Degasperis-Procesi equation on the line. Global strong solutions to the equation are determined for a class of initial profiles. On the other hand, it is shown that the first blow-up can occur only in the form of wave-breaking. A new wave-breaking mechanism for solutions is described in detail and two results of blow-up solutions with certain initial profiles are established. (Received August 28, 2006)