

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputies Conducting Enhanced Impaired Driving Patrols During Fourth of July Holiday Period

July 2, 2019

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA), will be conducting enhanced impaired driving patrols on Independence Day and the days surrounding the national holiday.

The Fourth of July is a wonderful time to celebrate with family, friends, food, and fireworks, but all too often the festivities turn tragic on our nation's highways. Unfortunately, this iconic American holiday is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to impaired-driving crashes.

During the 2017 Fourth of July holiday period (June 30 – July 5), 237 people were killed in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. These deaths accounted for 39 percent of the total motor vehicle crashes that occurred over the holiday period.

There are many other ways to ensure a safe ride home from Fourth of July festivities besides relying on a friend. The options include using public transportation, calling a taxi, or using a rideshare program such as Uber or Lyft. In addition, NHTSA's SaferRide Mobile App, available in the app store, is another resource to help find a sober ride home – by identifying their location and helping to call a taxi or a friend to pick them up.



The Sheriff's Office wishes everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July, and asks the public to celebrate responsibly. Remember: *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*.



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