



PRESS RELEASE

Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol for Memorial Holiday Travel

May 15, 2015--Washington County Sheriff's Deputies, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and local law enforcement agencies will be on the roads providing extra patrol to enhance safety for this Memorial Day holiday travel period.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office would like everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Holiday traveling experience. The Memorial Day Holiday travel period is one of the most dangerous holidays for crashes due to heavily traveled roadways combined with aggressive and distracted drivers.

In addition to extra patrols focused on impaired driving over the holiday travel period, deputies will also focus on aggressive drivers. Sheriff's Deputies will be looking for drivers that are speeding, following too closely and distracted drivers using mobile communication devices. Deputies will be out in force from May 18 through May 31, 2015. The results of the enhanced patrol will be provided June 1, 2015.

Every Memorial Day holiday weekend, Washington County Sheriff's Deputies respond to numerous traffic related incidents that could have been avoided. Deputies are reminding drivers to slow down, avoid distractions, allow adequate following distances, wear their seat belt and secure children in properly fitted child restraints.

Consistent vehicle passenger restraint use is the single most effective way to protect motor vehicle occupants from injury or death. ODOT reports that in 2013, over 50% of all fatal crashes involved an improperly restrained or unrestrained driver or passenger. Washington County has over 98 percent of consistent seatbelt use; the goal is 100% compliance.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommendation for child passenger's fact sheet is attached.

Please remember to be safe and considerate while enjoying the holiday.

Transportation Safety Division Click It or Ticket – May 2015

“Buckle Everyone, Every Time, Every Trip”

In 2013, Oregon saved 175 lives because they were buckled up.*

That’s why law enforcement is joining a statewide campaign to emphasize safety.

To remind drivers and passengers about the life-saving power of properly used safety belts and child safety seats, law enforcement agencies from around the state will be out in force from May 18 – 31, including at night, when people often skip the potentially life-saving practice.



One-fourth of those killed in 2013 were not wearing seatbelts.

Of the 216 vehicle occupants killed in Oregon motor vehicle crashes during 2013, 54 were unrestrained. For 24 others who died, we don’t know whether or not they were restrained. It’s tragic to think of the potential lives that could be saved by taking a few extra seconds to buckle up.

Nighttime sees more unbelted fatalities.

Of the 104 vehicle occupants that died at night in 2013, more than half were unrestrained or improperly restrained.



New this year: equipped van will help train technicians

After more than a year in the making, our new child passenger safety training van is on the road – and making it safer for young passengers. Federal funds administered by ODOT’s Transportation Safety Division (TSD) helped purchase and update a van to promote child passenger

safety and train certified technicians in how to install safety seats – and how to teach *others* to do so as well, such as parents, grandparents and caregivers. Through a TSD grant, the van resides with Legacy Emanuel’s Randall Children’s Hospital, where it is managed by Child Passenger Safety Coordinator Tammy Franks, TFranks@LHS.ORG or (503) 413-4665.

Remember: It’s not time ‘til they’re 4’9

Transportation Safety Division

Click It or Ticket – May 2015

Oregon law requires the following:

- Child passengers weighing less than forty pounds must be restrained in a child seat.
- Children under one year or weighing less than twenty pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child seat.
- A child over forty pounds must be restrained in either a child seat or a booster seat appropriate for the child's size until he/she reaches age eight or 4/9" tall AND the adult belt system fits properly.

Key Facts for Oregon

- Oregon leads the nation with highest reported seatbelt use: 98.18%. Still, NHTSA estimates six lives could have been saved here in 2013 if *everyone* buckled up.*
- OSP, sheriffs and local police will be working day and night to increase proper safety belt and child car seat use during a statewide traffic enforcement "blitz" from May 18 through May 31, 2015.
- Child car seats reduce the likelihood of infants under 1 year old being killed in a crash by 71 percent and the fatal risk for toddlers aged 1 to 4 by 54 percent, and 58 and 59 percent for infants and toddlers in SUVs, pickups and vans.
- Safety belts reduce the chance of fatal injury by 45 to 65 percent.

**Estimate, according to a report issued April 29, 2015 by the National Highway Transportation Safety Association.*

Contact Information

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View our 3-minute video at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/PublishingImages/safetybelts/swf/index.html>

To see a calendar of child safety seat clinics, visit www.oregonimpact.org.

