

## **NEWS RELEASE**



**Russel Burger, Sheriff  
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**CASE NUMBER:** None

**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT:** February 4 – 17, 2008

**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE:** February 5, 2008

**NATURE OF STORY:** Three Flags Safety Belt Campaign

**LOCATION:** Lane County

**DETAILS:** The Lane County Sheriffs Office Traffic Safety Team will be participating in the Three Flags Safety Belt enforcement campaign. Three Flags is a national campaign involving hundreds of law enforcement agencies in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. The Campaign focuses on reducing motor vehicle related deaths through enforcement of Oregon's primary seatbelt and child safety seat law. "Click it or Ticket" campaign ads sponsored by NHTSA will be aired on the radio and television. There will also be night time enforcement operations as well.

Deputies will be working on grant overtime provided by NHTSA through the Oregon State Sheriff's Association. Other local agencies participating in the campaign include the Oregon State Police and the Florence Police. Oregon's safety belt usage has increased from an 85% usage rate in 1997 to a 97% usage rate in 2007.

Statewide the Seat Belt Law, combined with active enforcement, has placed Oregon among the top five belt use states in the nation. This compares to a nationwide belt use average of 80%. Consistent safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle collisions,

**according to the US Department of Transportation. Using your safety belt increases your chances of surviving a traffic collision.**

**Probably the greatest dangers to unbelted or improperly belted occupants are the significant likelihood and consequences of ejection. Unbelted or improperly belted occupants are five times more likely to be ejected in a collision than one who is belted. Odds of surviving ejection from motor vehicle are estimated at one in four. This is why Oregon Law also prohibits minors from riding in an open bed of a pick-up truck.**

**Parents who have questions about how to properly use and install Child Safety Seats can contact the Oregon Child Safety Seat Resource Center at 1-800-772-1315.**

**###**

**For additional information contact: Sergeant Clint Riley of the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 682-3698.**

**Prepared by: Sergeant Fred Swank**