

NEWS RELEASE



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CASE NUMBER: None

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 19 – June 3, 2008

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: May 26, 2008 @ 12:40 p.m.

NATURE OF STORY: Three Flags Safety Belt Campaign

LOCATION: Lane County

DETAILS: The Lane County Sheriff's 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. The Lane County Sheriff's Office will join 26 other Sheriff offices and 63 Police departments statewide.

Today, most Oregon traffic enforcement agencies actively promote safety belt use within their jurisdictions. Statewide crash fatality and injury rates have each dropped 43% since passage of the adult belt law in 1990. The law, combined

with active enforcement, has resulted in 2007 Oregon belt use rates of 95% (front seat occupants) and 97% (all seating), placing Oregon among the top five belt use states in the U.S. This compares to a nationwide belt use average of 80% for front seat occupants.

During the 2007 grant year, federal traffic safety overtime paid for deputies to staff local child safety seat clinics and allowed deputies to attend local educational events. During the national 2007 blitz campaign, 544 drivers were arrested for DUII, 2,442 suspended drivers were contacted and 516 Felony arrests were made.

Wearing your safety belt has shown to be 45-65% effective in preventing fatalities and injuries.

For additional information contact:

Sergeant Fred Swank of the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 682-2030

Prepared by: Sergeant Fred Swank