

NEWS RELEASE



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CASE NUMBER: N/A

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: July 11, 12 & 13, 2008

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: July 8, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

NATURE OF STORY: Saturation Patrol – West Lane County

LOCATION: Walton, Veneta, Elmira & Cheshire

DETAILS: Deputies from the Lane County Sheriff's Office Traffic & Life Safety Team, in cooperation with the Oregon State Police, will be conducting a saturation patrol this Friday through Sunday July 11, 12 & 13, 2008. This saturation patrol will focus on county roads and state highways in the Veneta, Walton, Elmira & Cheshire areas. Funds from the Multi Unit Traffic Team Grant, a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation, will be used to fund patrols for the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies and Troopers will be conducting this patrol due to the increase in traffic on Lane County roads and state highways during the Oregon Country Fair in Veneta. This patrol will focus on minors in possession of alcohol, DUII, Open Container violations, speeding, following too close, driving uninsured, failure to use safety belts and other traffic safety violations.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office expects an increase in traffic volume along Highway 126 to the Oregon Coast, as well as Highway 36, Territorial Highway and Suttle Road in the Elmira area. Motorists should expect traffic delays in these areas as well as an increase in pedestrian traffic along these roadways.

The purpose of the Multi Agency Traffic Team Grant is to provide enforcement on targeted Lane County roadways that have frequent traffic collisions and traffic fatalities.

From 1999 through 2006, 372 people have been killed and 1,720 have suffered serious injuries from traffic collisions within Lane County according to ODOT statistics. These deaths and injuries rank Lane County among the top five counties in Oregon for traffic collision deaths. The intent of this saturation patrol is to provide an increased presence to deal with DUII drivers and address traffic safety issues. Saturation patrols have proven to reduce traffic collisions. Additionally, the high visibility of traffic enforcement in a focused area is a proven technique for deterring criminal activity.

For additional information contact: Sergeant Fred Swank, 682-4150

Prepared by: Sergeant Fred Swank