

NEWS RELEASE



Russel Burger, Sheriff
Lane County Sheriff's Office
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 682-4150 / FAX (541) 682-4522
Email: sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: August 31 - September 13, 2009

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 09/02/09 – 10:00 p.m.

NATURE OF STORY: Safety Belt Blitz Saturation Patrol
“Buckle Up. Every Time.”

LOCATION: Lane County & State-wide

DETAILS: Between August 31 and September 13, the Lane County Sheriff's Office Traffic & Life Safety Team will be participating in the state-wide Three Flags Campaign. The campaign will focus on compliance with Oregon's safety belt and child passenger safety seat laws. Washington and British Columbia will be participating in this campaign as well. Grant funds provided to the Sheriff's Office through NHTSA will be used to fund the enforcement blitz.

Deputies will be joined in the enforcement campaign by the Oregon State Police, and the Eugene and Florence Police Departments. During this time the officer's primary focus will be the correct use of safety belts by all occupants of vehicles.

Oregon's seat belt law was established in 1990. The law, combined with active enforcement, has resulted in a 2008 Oregon belt use rate of 96% (front seat and all occupants) placing Oregon among the top five belt use states in the U.S. This compares to a nationwide belt use average of 83% for front seat occupants.

During the 2008 grant year, Blitz enforcement contacts for Oregon were 62,416. Of those contacts 15,897 resulted in seat belt violations. There were also 10,084 contacts for speeding, 315 arrests for DUII, 8,398 suspended drivers and 410 Felony contacts.

Prepared by: Sergeant Fred Swank (541) 682-4150