



Conserving the Peace
SHERIFF
WASHINGTON COUNTY
Pat Garrett, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

Seat Belt Blitz Kicks off in May

May 12, 2017 -- Deputies with the Washington County Sheriff's Office will be working extra patrols throughout the county for two weeks in May as part of the Seat Belt Blitz. This "blitz" is funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and run in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's annual (NHTSA) "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Law enforcement agencies from across Oregon will participate in a two-week campaign to encourage the use of safety belts and child restraints in vehicles. The "blitz" runs from May 15, 2017 through May 28, 2017.

Studies by NHTSA show that motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death or disability in children from two to fourteen years of age. This number is due in large part to non-use, or improper use of child safety seats and seatbelts. Proper seatbelt and child restraint use is the number one way to prevent injury or death if you or your children are involved in a crash.



NHTSA recommends that all children under thirteen years old ride in the back seat. Research indicates that passengers riding in the rear seating area are at reduced risk of injury for that age group. Children who are under eight-years old or 4' 9" tall must be in properly fitted child safety seats. All other occupants must be properly secured utilizing safety belt systems.

For safety belt systems, proper use means the lap belt must be placed low across the hips and the shoulder belt should cross the center of the chest over the collar bone. Belts should be free of slack and have no twists or knots. The shoulder belt should NOT be placed under the arm or behind the back; this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in a crash. Children should not ride in the open bed of any pick-up truck.

Additional information regarding car safety seats and child passenger safety can be found at: <http://oregonimpact.org/>.

The Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Unit is dedicated to promoting and improving traffic safety through education, analysis and enforcement.