



Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE: February Seat Belt Blitz Results

February 24, 2017 — The Washington County Sheriff's Office Traffic Team reports the results from the February Seat Belt Blitz enforcement. The saturation enforcement was conducted in partnership with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon Department of Transportation and a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These results are from the reporting period starting February 6, 2017, and continuing through February 19, 2017.

Total traffic contacts: 1,054

Safety Belt Violations: 145

Speed Violations: 355

Additional Warnings or Violations: 726 which includes a variety of traffic safety violations

There will be continued enhance traffic enforcement missions later this year.

Seat Belt Blitz Kicks off in February

January 27, 2017 -- Deputies with the Washington County Sheriff's Office will be working extra patrols for two weeks in February as part of a Seat Belt Blitz. 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 February 06, 2017 through February 19, 2017.

Studies by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death or disability in children from two to 14 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.

Oregon law requires:

- Infants to ride in rear facing seats until they are one year old **and** 20 pounds.
- Children over one year old, between 20 and 40 pounds, must be in a forward facing seat.
- Children who weigh over 40 pounds must be properly secured in a booster seat until they are eight years old or 4' 9" tall.
- Children who are over eight years old or 4' 9" and all adults must be properly secured utilizing seatbelts.



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- The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recommends that all children under 13 years old ride in the back seat. Research indicates that passengers riding in the rear seating area reduce the risk of injury for that age group.

For safety belt systems, proper use means the lap belt must be placed low across hips and shoulder belt crossing 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.

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

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