

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Enhanced Seat Belt Patrols Beginning May 20th

May 16, 2019

The statistics speak for themselves. In 2017, more than 10,000 people in the United States were killed in vehicle crashes where the occupants were not wearing seat belts, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). That's why the Washington County Sheriff's Office is partnering with NHTSA, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSAA), and law enforcement agencies across the state to promote proper seat belt use and increase public safety.

Between the dates of May 20 and June 2, 2019, extra deputies will be on the roadways looking for drivers and passengers not wearing, or improperly using seat belts. We will also be on the lookout for drivers not using their seat belts after dark, since nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. In 2017, 55% of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night were not wearing their seat belts.

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.

Information regarding safe driving can be found at [www.oregonimpact.org](http://www.oregonimpact.org).

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

Learn more about the team:  
<http://bit.ly/2YBfTzQ>



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**"CONSERVING THE PEACE THROUGH VALUES DRIVEN SERVICE"**