Regional Sheriff’s Offices
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 4, 2009

Regional Sheriff’s Offices Step-Up School Zone Enforcement Next Week

Next week, with the beginning of the new school year, the Regional Sheriff’s Offices from Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties will be increasing patrols in school zones and bus routes looking for speeding vehicles and inattentive drivers during school hours.

During the summer months it is easy to forget about school zones. The first week of school is always a hectic time for parents, kids, crossing guards, and school bus drivers as everyone tries to get back into the school routine. Combined with the normal traffic flow in school zones and the surround area this can create a dangerous situation for everyone. Starting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, the majority of the schools in Oregon will be back in session and school zone speed reductions will be in effect. This means that any school zone that is marked with an appropriate sign will have the speed reduced to 20 MPH and will be subject to doubled traffic citation fines, regardless of the regular posted speed limit in the area.

Deputies from the regional sheriff’s offices will also be watching for drivers violating traffic laws pertaining to school busses. As a reminder, when the red lights on a school bus are flashing all traffic traveling in both directions must come to a stop, unless the roadway is physically divided.

The Sheriffs of the four counties have collectively agreed to focus additional traffic enforcement efforts in school zones throughout their respective jurisdictions during the first week of school. At the end of that week, a follow up release will detail the combined actions taken by Sheriff’s deputies. Media are invited to ride along in the county of their choosing.

The elected office of the Sheriff is unique. By statute it is responsible for several critical areas of responsibility for public safety, including operating a jail, search and rescue, waterway protection, and civil services. Each sheriff’s office also has resources necessary to meet other law enforcement needs that benefit the citizens of each county.

Please help the regional sheriff’s offices in keeping our children safe this school year. Be on the lookout for school zones, school buses and double check your speed when driving past them.

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