Three Flags Seat Belt Blitz Kicks Off Next Week

Deputies with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office will be working overtime next week during the Three Flags Seat Belt Blitz. Beginning next Monday, August 31, hundreds of law enforcement agencies from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, will participate in a two-week campaign to encourage the use of safety belts and child restraints in vehicles. The "blitz" runs from August 31, 2009 through September 13, 2009.

Studies by NTSA show that motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death or acquired disability in children from 2 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 1 year old and 20 pounds.
- Children over 1 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 8 years old or 4' 9" tall.
- Children who are over 8 years old or 4' 9" and all adults must be properly secured using seatbelts.
- The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends that all children under 12 years old ride in the back seat. Research indicates that riding in the rear seating reduces the risk of injury by 37% for that age group.

Additional information regarding child passenger safety can be found at www.actsoregon.org/index.html. The Sheriff’s Office Traffic Safety Unit is dedicated to promoting and improving traffic safety through education, analysis and enforcement.

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