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**LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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**DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE:** August 30, 2018 9:30 a.m.

**NATURE OF STORY:** Lane County Sheriff's Office Utilizes Grant Funding for Traffic Enforcement to Reduce Vehicle Crashes and Fatalities

**DETAILS:**

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is using special allocated funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to provide overtime patrols with a focus on Traffic and Life Safety from August 17<sup>th</sup> through the Labor Day weekend. Sheriff's Office deputies have logged more than 30 hours of grant-funded overtime patrols so far, focusing on seat belt use, speeding, distracted driving, and DUII detection and apprehension. This saturation patrol effort is in conjunction with a nation-wide blitz by law enforcement to reduce the number of injuries and deaths from vehicle crashes related to impaired and distracted driving.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office wants to remind motorists to buckle up, drive safely, and drive sober. With the passage of Oregon's marijuana laws, this is also a reminder of the impairment marijuana has on drivers, impacting the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) applies to drivers under the influence of marijuana, as it does with alcohol.

*Previous Release Sent 8/14/2018*

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) received special allocated funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to provide overtime patrols with a focus on Traffic and Life Safety. These patrols emphasize DUII and aggressive driving enforcement, as well as seat belt use enforcement. Through the grant funding, LCSO deputies will be conducting overtime patrols in the Lane County area beginning August 17<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day weekend (September 3<sup>rd</sup>). This saturation is in conjunction with a nation-wide effort to reduce intoxicated and impaired driving and reduce the number of injuries and deaths from vehicle crashes.

The nation-wide seatbelt enforcement is focused on child safety seats, texting and speed enforcement. As of May 2017, Oregon law requires children less than 2 years of age to be in a rear facing child seat and in a booster seat until they are at least 4 foot and 9 inches tall.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office wants to remind motorists to buckle up, drive safely and drive sober. With the passage of Oregon's marijuana laws, this is also a reminder of the impairment marijuana creates of drivers, impacting their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) applies to drivers under the influence of marijuana, as it does with alcohol.

**Prepared By: Sergeant Tim Ware**