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# LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## NEWS RELEASE



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**DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE:** December 12, 2017 12:45 pm

**NATURE OF STORY:** Lane County Sheriff's Office to Participate in Nation-Wide  
DUII Saturation Patrols

**DETAILS:**

During the holiday season, local traffic increases dramatically as many travel to celebrate with friends and families. During this time of year, the number of drunk driving and impaired driving incidents also increases significantly. The U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently released fatal traffic crash data for 2016. Nationwide, 37,461 lives were lost on U.S. roads in 2016, an increase of 5.6 percent from year 2015. Drunk driving deaths increased nationwide by 1.7 percent to 10,497 fatalities. Oregon, Oklahoma and Kentucky are all comparable in population. Oklahoma reported 180 drunk driving fatalities as compared to Kentucky at 175 reported fatalities. Oregon reported 154 drunk driving fatalities in 2016. That's 154 too many.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) received special allocated funding from ODOT/ Oregon State Sheriff's Association to provide for overtime patrols with a focus on Traffic and Life Safety emphasizing DUII and aggressive driving enforcement. Through the grant funding, LCSO deputies will be conducting overtime patrols in the Lane County area beginning this week through January 1st. This saturation is in conjunction with a nation-wide effort to reduce drunk and impaired driving.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office wants to remind motorists to drive safely during the typically hazardous conditions this time of year, drive sober, and utilize designated drivers, taxis or other public transportation if you choose to drink. With the passage of Oregon's marijuana laws, this is also a reminder of the impairment marijuana creates in 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.

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