
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE: February 2, 2018 8:00 am

NATURE OF STORY: Lane County Sheriff's Office to Participate in Nation-Wide Seat Belt Enforcement Blitz

DETAILS:

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported 37,461 deaths from crashes nationwide in 2016. This is more than half of the population of the City of Springfield (population 60,140 per Lane Council of Governments) and a 5.6% increase from the following year. In Oregon, traffic fatalities increased 11% from 2015 to 2016 with 446 fatalities to 495 fatalities.

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. Through the grant funding, LCSO deputies will be conducting overtime patrols in the Lane County area from Monday, February 5th to Sunday, February 18th. The focus of the enforcement will be seat belt use, child seat belt and car seat safety, cell phone use, speeding, and aggressive driving. This is in conjunction with the nation-wide effort sponsored by NHTSA.

As of Oct. 1st, 2017, Oregon increased the penalties for Operating a Motor Vehicle While Using a Mobile Communication Device significantly. The base fine for the first offense went from \$165.00 to \$265.00. The second offense for the same violation is now a \$440.00 citation and the 3rd is now a misdemeanor offense with a penalty of up to \$2000.00.

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 in drivers, impacting their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI) applies to drivers under the influence of marijuana, as it does with alcohol.

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