
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE: February 3, 2017/ 12:45 pm

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

DETAILS:

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) Crash Analysis and Reporting Unit released the latest available state-wide data for passenger vehicle fatalities for the state of Oregon. The data from 2015 shows 445 deaths from crashes throughout Oregon that year. This statistic is significantly higher than the 232 deaths reported in Oregon in 2014. There were 41,675 people injured in crashes in Oregon in 2015 with approximately 20% of all crashes involving a driver age 15 to 20.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported 35,092 deaths from crashes nationwide in 2015. This is more than half of the population of the City of Springfield (population 60,140 per LCOG).

The Lane County Sheriff's Office received special allocated funding from ODOT/ Oregon State Sheriff's 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 6th to Sunday, February 19th. The focus of the enforcement will be seat belt use, child restraints, cellular telephone use, speed and aggressive driving. This is in conjunction with the nation-wide effort sponsored by NHTSA.

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: Deputy Tim Ware