



May 16, 2013

Safety Belt Enforcement Campaign

Officers from the Coos Bay Police Department will join law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon in a Safety Belt Enforcement Campaign from May 20th to June 2nd. This is the second of the three scheduled safety belt and traffic safety campaigns for 2013. The focus of the program is to increase public awareness of the seatbelt laws with the goal of reducing traffic injuries and deaths. Members from the Coos Bay Police Department will take to the road during this campaign to focus their attention on seatbelt violations and child safety seat violations, but they will also be watching for minors in open pickup beds as well as drivers who are speeding, texting, and driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Oregon law requires that there be "proper use" of the entire seatbelt system. The lap belt placed low across the hips and a shoulder belt over the collarbone and crossing the center of the chest. Belts should be free of slack and lying flat with no twists or knots. If necessary, slide the attachment on the door post up or down to fit the size of you or your passenger. Shoulder belts should not be placed under the arm or behind the back as this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in the event of a crash.

- Oregon has the second highest safety belt use among U.S states with 97% of the motoring public observed using safety belts routinely. This is good news because consistent belt use is the single most effective way to protect motor vehicle occupants from crash injury or death, according to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT).
- Last year in Oregon, 215 motor vehicle occupants died in crashes.
- Sixty-one of these people were unbelted: forty-nine of the unbelted fatalities were pickup occupants and two-thirds of them died in night time crashes.
- Proper use of safety belt and child safety systems can reduce the risk of crash injury by as much as 70% or more.
- Recent USDOT research suggests that nationwide restraint use is lowest at night and that most of Oregon's unbuckled fatalities occur on weekday afternoons and between the hours of 6 pm and 6am on weekends. NHTSA is encouraging states to conduct night time enforcement of safety belt laws as well as day time during the upcoming nationwide Click It or Ticket law enforcement campaign, running Monday, May 20th through Sunday, June 2nd.
- Click It or Ticket enforcement in Oregon will focus on educating those motor vehicle occupants shown through QDQT studies to be least less likely to use restraints and therefore at greatest risk of injury: night time travelers and pickup truck occupants.

Coos Bay City Hall
500 Central Avenue
Coos Bay, OR
97420
www.coosbay.org

Police Department
(541) 269-8911

Fire Department
(541) 269-1191

Library
(541) 269-1101

Public Works &
Development
Department
(541) 269-8918

Economic
Development
(541) 269-8924

Finance
Department
(541) 269-8915

City Manager's
Office
(541) 269-8912

- Unrestrained occupants are five times more likely to be ejected out of a vehicle than those who are restrained. They can also be thrown against other passengers and injure them during a crash or sharp swerve.
- Risk of ejection is greatest in rollover crashes and is the principal reason that minors are prohibited from riding in an open bed of a pickup truck. Odds of surviving ejection are estimated at one in four.
- There were 1,038 child passengers under age four injured in Oregon traffic crashes last year. One-third of these children were improperly or unrestrained.
- Oregon child passenger safety laws: A child weighing less than 40 pounds must be properly restrained in a child safety seat. A child under one year of age or weighing less than twenty pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child seat. A child over forty pounds or who has reached the upper weight limit of their forward-facing child safety seat must use a booster seat to age eight or 4' 9" tall and the adult lap and shoulder belt system fits correctly.
- *"Best Practice Recommendations" of the American Academy of Pediatrics and US DOT: Children should ride in rear-facing car seats to age two or the upper weight limit of the seat in use. Children should continue to ride in safety seats to forty pounds or the upper weight limit of their safety seat before transitioning to a booster seat. Children under thirteen should ride in the back seat.*
- *For more information on Oregon laws or ODOT Occupant Protection Program, go to:*
[www.oregon.gov/ODO T/TS/Pages/safetybelts](http://www.oregon.gov/ODO/T/TS/Pages/safetybelts)
- *For help with child safety seats, refer to the seat manufacturer's instructions, vehicle owner's manual or call ACTS Oregon Child Safety Seat Resource Center at (503)643-5620 or (877)793-2608 or visit childsafetyseat.org .*
- *For additional details of the national Click It or Ticket Campaign, go to:*
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/CIOT>

###