



Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway

Newport, Oregon 97365

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

01/31/2014 8:00 a.m.

Incident: Seatbelt, Distracted Driving, and Speed Enforcement

Location: Newport, Oregon

Details: The Newport Police Department, along with other law enforcement agencies, will participate in Oregon's Safety Belt Overtime Enforcement Program from February 10 to 23, 2014. Newport Police Officers will be on extra patrol with emphasis on enforcement of seatbelt laws, child restraints, distracted driving, and speed violations.

Oregon's Safety Belt Overtime Enforcement Program is a statewide selective traffic enforcement approach to reducing the number of motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries by increasing public awareness of laws regarding the three most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crash injuries: safety restraint use, speed, and impaired drivers.

Since passage in 1990 of the adult safety belt law, statewide crash fatality and injury rates have dropped 59% and 37%, respectively. The law, combined with active enforcement, has resulted in a 2013 Oregon seatbelt use rate of 98% for all occupants. Oregon is one of the top two seatbelt-use states in the U.S.

Distracted driving continues to pose a serious danger on our roadways. While it is illegal to use a handheld mobile communications device, an astounding number of Oregon drivers continue to do so. When drivers divert their attention from the task of driving to focus on some other activity, they increase their chances of getting in a crash. Text messaging creates a crash risk of 23 times higher than driving while not distracted.

The Newport Police Department, along with the Oregon Department of Transportation, encourages all drivers and passengers to make a concerted effort to use their seatbelt. Furthermore, we encourage all drivers to drive responsibly, be aware of speed limits, stow electronic devices, and stay alert.

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Information Released By: Lt. Jason Malloy, 541-574-3348