



Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway
Newport, Oregon 97365

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

04/22/2015 4:00 p.m.

Incident: Traffic Safety Education
Simulated Crash Demonstration

Location: Newport High School

Date/Time: 04/22/2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Details: On April 22, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., the Newport Police Department, in conjunction with Newport High School Student Body Officers, conducted a mock DUII fatality crash in front of the Newport High School.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of the dangers of impaired driving. On average, there is a traffic-related fatality on our nation's highways every 15 minutes. The most susceptible group is drivers under the age of 25. The majority of these fatalities' investigations identify distracted and impaired driving as contributing factors.

Today's educational event focused on the prom and graduation season. These moments of celebration are often marred by the tragic loss of a loved one. Too often, this loss could have been prevented by the choice to not drive impaired.

The simulated crash scene included student actors role-playing the crash victims. One driver went through a simulated Standardized Field Sobriety Test, and was subsequently "arrested". Two students were treated and released at the scene. Two students were transported to hospital by ambulance for treatment of their simulated injuries. Two students at the simulated scene were pronounced "deceased".

The Newport Police Department was assisted on-scene by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Newport Fire Department, PAC

West Ambulance Service, and Bateman-Pacific View Funeral Home. A special thanks is given to the Toledo Police Department for providing dispatch services, and to AA Rowley's Towing for the donation of two vehicles for the event.

Following the crash scene, students met in the gymnasium for an assembly. The students were addressed by multiple speakers, including Newport Police Department Records Clerk/Evidence custodian Pamela Briggs. Briggs has played an active role in Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Lincoln County Victims' Impact Panel. Briggs shared her own story of the loss of her son in an impaired driving traffic crash.

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