



*TUALATIN POLICE DEPARTMENT*  
*MEDIA RELEASE*



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**INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Release # August 2016 Safety Belt Blitz

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**Oregon Safety Belt Campaign**

Tualatin Police will be conducting a safety enforcement blitz starting August 22, 2016. The project will focus on proper belt use for adults as well as children riding in car seats, texting while driving and speed.

Tualatin Police will join with police agencies nationwide for the annual, "Click it or ticket" campaign that runs from August 22 through September 4. Oregon agencies will focus on educating parents and caregivers about the importance of proper child seat and safety belt use. They will also focus on educating drivers on the dangers of texting while driving and speeding.

Statistics show child safety seats reduce crash fatality risk for infants under 1 year old by 71% and for toddlers aged 1 to 4 by 59%. Booster seats may reduce the chance of nonfatal injury among four to eight year olds by 45% compared to safety belts used alone. Safety belts reduce fatality risk by 45 to 60%. And yet, 26% or 61 of Oregon's 232 occupant fatalities in 2014 were reportedly unrestrained. ODOT estimates that approximately half of these fatalities could have been avoided with proper restraint use.

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Consistent vehicle restraint use is the single most effective way to protect motor vehicle occupants from crash injury or death, according to the US Department of Transportation.

For safety belt systems, “proper use” means lap belt placed low across hips and shoulder belt crossing center of the chest over the collarbone. Belts should be free of slack and lying flat with no twists or knots. If the shoulder belt portion of the belt rides up onto the neck or feels uncomfortable, comfort may be increased by using the built-in adjuster or by moving seat position. The shoulder belt should NOT be placed under the arm or behind the back – this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in a crash.

Oregon law enforcement agencies are committed to reducing traffic crash injuries and deaths by promoting safety belt use and encouraging other safe driving behaviors through active enforcement and education.

The safety enforcement campaign is a federally funded program administered by ODOT.

Nearly one hundred state, county and city police agencies are participating in overtime grants to be used primarily during joint, statewide enforcement saturations or, “blitzes” scheduled for February, May and August.

For more information on the, “Click it or Ticket” program please visit the following web pages, [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov) or [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Pages/safetybelts.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Pages/safetybelts.aspx).