



*TUALATIN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MEDIA RELEASE*



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**INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Release # May 2015 Safety Belt Blitz

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**Oregon Safety Belt Campaign**

Tualatin Police will be conducting a safety enforcement blitz starting May 18, 2015. The project will focus on proper belt use for adults as well as children riding in car seats.

Tualatin Police will join with police agencies nationwide for the annual, "Click it or ticket" campaign that runs from May 18<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Oregon agencies will focus on educating drivers on the importance of wearing their safety belt properly during all hours of the day and avoidance of minors riding in open bed pick-up trucks.

**Oregon continues to lead the nation with the highest ever reported state belt use rate of 98.18%.** However, 32% of the 216 vehicle occupants killed in Oregon motor vehicle crashes during 2014 were unbelted. And the majority of the unbelted persons killed ---76% or 41 of the 54 unbelted fatalities --- occurred during nighttime hours between 6 p.m.- 6 a.m.

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.

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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 through the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and OSP Patrol Services.

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 September.

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/safetybelts.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/safetybelts.shtml)